



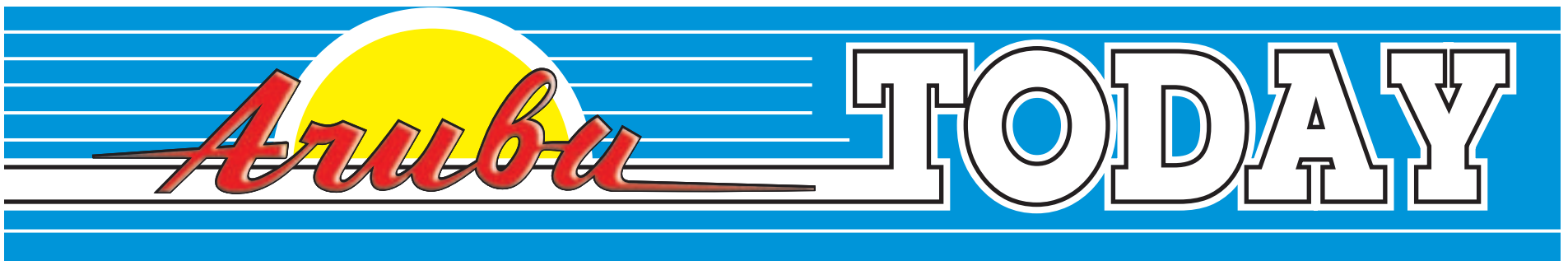
OBAMA CALLS ON ACTIVISTS FASTING FOR IMMIGRATION

Page 5



KEEPING ARUBA BEAUTIFUL ONE BEACH AT A TIME

Page 13



On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Saturday, November 30, 2013

END OF A CHAPTER

DECLAN WALSH

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WASHINGTON/LONDON

When he leaves his post Friday, Gen. Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, the inscrutable Pakistani army chief and former spymaster, will end a nearly decade-long chapter as the focus of U.S. fears and frustrations in Pakistan, the reluctant partner in a contentious and often ill-tempered strategic dance.



Afghan President Hamid Karzai, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Gen. Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, at a trilateral meeting on security issues, in Brussels.

(E. Vucci/ The New York Times)

Suspicious U.S. officials frequently accused him, and the 600,000-member army he led, of double-dealing and bad faith: supporting the Afghan Taliban, allying with militant groups who bombed embassies and bases, and sheltering Osama bin Laden.

Those accusations were made in private, but exploded in 2011 when Adm. Mike Mullen issued an angry tirade to Congress about Pakistani duplicity.

Continued on page 3



Shoppers walk down Michigan Ave. on Friday, Nov. 29, 2013, in Chicago. Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, is typically the nation's biggest shopping day of the year.

(AP Photo/Andrew A. Nelles)

Americans Enjoy 2-Day Holiday Shopping Spree

ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
AP Retail Writer

The holiday shopping season started as a marathon, not a sprint.

More than a dozen major U.S. retailers stayed open for 24 hours or more on Thanksgiving Day through Black Friday, and crowds formed early and often over the two days, creating something of a shopping

"Grey Zone."

About 15,000 people waited for the flagship Macy's in New York to open at 8 p.m. on Thanksgiving. Long checkout lines formed at the Target in Colma, Calif., on Friday morning. And by the time Jessica Astalos was leaving North Point Mall in Alpharetta, Ga., after a six-hour buying binge that started on Thanksgiv-

ing, another wave of shoppers was coming in about 5:30 a.m. on Friday.

"You just have to be out in the midst of all of it," said Ricki Moss, who hit stores near Portland, Ore., at 5:30 a.m. on Friday. "It's exciting."

This year may cement the transformation of the start of the holiday shopping season into a two-day af-

fair.

For nearly a decade, Black Friday had been the official start of the shopping season between Thanksgiving and Christmas. It was originally named Black Friday because it was when retailers turned a profit, or moved out of the red and into the black.

Continued on page 3

Lighting up the lawn with 16 million colors

ROXIE HAMMILL
MIKE HENDRICKS

© 2013 New York Times

It starts with an innocent string of incandescent holiday lights around a porch window, maybe a plastic caroler or two on the front lawn.

Then it escalates: Twinkling lights are in the shrubs, Santa's on the roof, an inflatable Frosty the Snowman is on the lawn, and next to him is one of those little white wire reindeer with a head that turns ever so slowly.

Nice work, holiday decorator. But do you have lights that can be controlled by tracing your finger over the face of a smartphone? A reindeer face with a mouth that moves with the music you've provided over an FM radio connection? Do you have 16 million colors available at the flick of a switch?

New holiday lighting systems and smartphone apps can make that inflatable Frosty look downright

austere.

The secret of the 16 million colors is single light bulbs that hold three LEDs - red, blue and green. Those three can be dialed up and down in various combinations by a smartphone app, creating an unimaginable number of possibilities.

Controlled via any Bluetooth smart device, the app has a range of up to 150 feet, so you can control the colors and action from across the yard or from your couch, simply by moving your finger along a color wheel on the screen of your Apple or Android phone or tablet. And they can be synced to music.

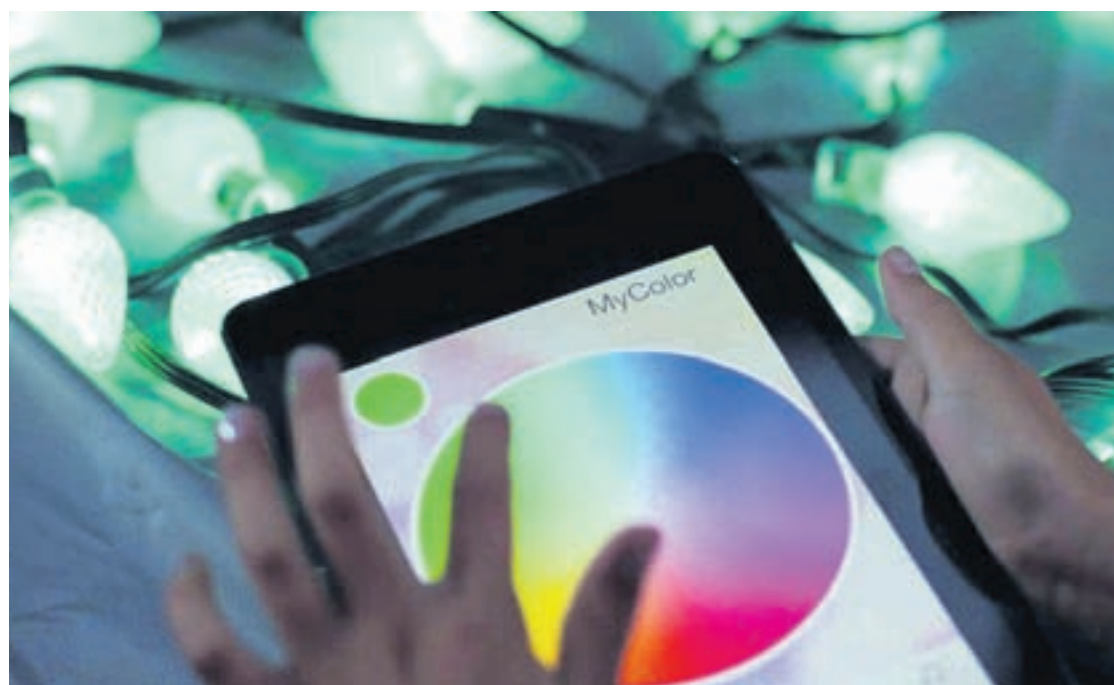
Since the color range is so varied, the same lights can be used for Halloween, Easter, Fourth of July, just about anything. They can even be left up year round - the holy grail of exhausted, height-fearing homeowners.

The addition of smartphone apps and RGB (red, green and blue) units

is the latest variation in a trend that has been going on since light-emitting diode holiday lights started

arch in the National Lampoon "Vacation" movies), there is Christmas in a Box, a package available

ers pay Animated Lighting to come out and design displays that can cost \$10,000 and more, said



The Lumenplan color palette app on a tablet that allows users to program strings of Lumenplay lights to change colors. Controlled via any Bluetooth smart device, the app has a range of up to 150 feet, so you can control the colors and action from across the yard or from your couch, simply by moving your finger along a color wheel on the screen of your Apple or Android phone or tablet.

(Handout via The New York Times)

popping up in stores over the last decade.

Of course, for some, money is no object. For aspiring Clark Griswolds (the patri-

through Animated Lighting of Kansas City, Mo., that can cost up to \$1,200. Despite the expense, some residential custom-

owner Paul Smith. "A lot of them say, 'I want to just smoke people. I want people to say where in the hell did you buy that?'"

In battle for mall parking, apps as a secret weapon

JACLYN TROP

© 2013 New York Times

Phoebe Scott of Orange County, Calif., has a new routine before heading to

see what I'm up against or if I need to change my plans."

If a lot is less than 90 percent full, the trip is on. Her

open space.

"It's a daily battle," said Scott, 29, the founder of Laudville, a social technology startup. "Anything to

sary evil of Black Friday, is becoming easier thanks to new technologies, from apps and sensors to color-coded lights and electronic boards.

It's one way that malls and shopping districts are trying to lure customers away from their computers and back into their brick-and-mortar stores.

ParkMe, which tracks more than 28,000 locations worldwide, has emerged as a mainstay app for mall customers navigating the nation's parking lots. With the app, they can find the closest and least expensive lots, as well as alternative entrances to the garage. The app's user base surged 97 percent in the past year as it added hundreds of garages to its database.

The app's technology is simple enough: A magnetic loop at the garage clocks the number of times the gate lifts to admit or release a car. ParkMe also lets a customer reserve a spot in certain locations.

Other parking apps are gaining traction as well. Parkopedia, which is linked to 26,000 lots in North America, also allows users to search parking sites, availability and prices. QuickPay plans to start in hundreds of malls next year to help shoppers pay for garage and metered spots and valet services from their smartphone.

There is no data available on the number of mall garages outfitted with sensors to help keep track of vacant spots, but analysts say the rate of adoption is doubling or tripling year over year.

Downtowns and local shopping districts are striving to make parking easier too. San Francisco, for example, with its notoriously difficult on-street parking, created its own app that steers drivers to open spots.

And automakers are adding features to their dashboard technology to help drivers navigate to a parking lot.



Phoebe Scott, who frequently uses a smartphone app to help her find parking when shopping, at Santa Monica Place mall in Santa Monica, Calif., Nov. 21, 2013. Many malls and shopping areas are using a proliferation of new technologies, from apps and sensors to color-coded lights and electronic boards, to make parking easier in an effort to attract customers.

(J. Emilio Flores/The New York Times)

the mall.

She checks the parking lots on her ParkMe smartphone app "so that I can

favorite is a garage at Santa Monica Place mall, where sensors and lights guide her to a specific

make it easier makes a really big difference."

The fight for a parking spot at the mall, long a neces-

Military era in Pakistan ends

Continued from Front

The taciturn Kayani weathered those accusations with a sangfroid that left both allies and enemies guessing about what, or whom, he knew. But few doubted that he nursed grievances, too - about CIA covert operations, the humiliating raid that killed bin Laden, and perceived U.S. arrogance and inconstancy.

Kayani, 61, steps down with those arguments still lingering. And reckoning with his legacy exposes a cold truth at the heart of the turbulent U.S.-Pakistani relationship: that after years of diplomatic effort, and billions of dollars in aid, the countries' aims and methods remain fundamentally opposed - particularly when it comes to the endgame next door in Afghanistan.

"We have almost no strategic convergences with Pakistan, at any level," admitted a senior U.S. defense official. "You'll never change that, and it's naïve to think we can do it with an appeal to the war on terror."

Kayani's response to the Taliban included a successful military offensive in the Swat Valley in 2009, and orders to dust off the army's creaky, India-centric military doctrine, which he infused with modern counterinsurgency doctrine.

He also publicly acknowledged the country's Frankenstein problem: that jihadist groups which the army had once nurtured to fight Indian interests in Kashmir and elsewhere had become a menace to Pakistan's stability.

"We as a nation must stand united against this threat," he said in a widely acclaimed speech in August 2012.

But the army only partly embraced this conversion, to the immense frustration of U.S. officials, especially Mullen. With Kayani, it came down to a confidence vote on the future of Afghanistan. □

Americans Enjoy 2-Day Holiday Shopping Spree



People wait in line to enter Hollister Co. clothing store to go shopping on Fifth Avenue in New York. (Michael Appleton/The New York Times)

Continued from Front

Retailers opened early and offered deep discounts. But in the past few years, store chains have been opening on Thanksgiving. This year, several welcomed shoppers for the first time on Thanksgiving night, while Gap Inc., which owns Banana Republic, Gap and Old Navy, opened half its stores earlier on the holiday. Wal-Mart stores, most of which stay open 24 hours, has for the past several years offered doorbusters that had been reserved for Black Friday. And Kmart planned to stay open 41 hours starting at 6 a.m. on Thanksgiving.

That has led some to question how much further Black Friday will creep into Thanksgiving, which along with Christmas is one of only two days a year that most stores are closed.

"Black Friday is now Gray Friday," said Craig Johnson, president of Customer Growth Partners, a retail consultancy.

The earlier openings have met with some resistance. Workers' rights groups and some shoppers had planned protests on Thanksgiving and Black Friday to decry the way some store employees

were forced to miss holiday meals at home. But as of Thursday afternoon, there were no reports of widespread protests.

Judy Espey ducked out of a Thanksgiving family dinner to buy a 50-inch flat-screen TV at Wal-Mart near Clifton Park, N.Y., for \$288. But "I don't really dig the Thanksgiving night thing," she confessed. "I feel bad for the workers."

Vinnie Gopalakrishnan pledged not to hit the stores after seeing TV footage of people shopping

on Thanksgiving. But he flip-flopped after his cousin told him about a deal on a big-screen TV.

"I said, 'I'm not going to do it. Those people are crazy,'" Gopalakrishnan said before heading to a Wal-Mart on Friday.

It's unclear whether the early openings will lead shoppers to spend more over the two days or simply spread sales out.

Last year, sales on Thanksgiving rose 55 percent from the previous year to \$810 million, as more stores

opened on the holiday, according to research firm ShopperTrak. But sales dropped 1.8 percent to \$11.2 billion on Black Friday, though it still was the biggest shopping day last year.

Store sales numbers won't be available until Saturday. The National Retail Federation said 140 million people planned to shop during the four-day holiday weekend. IBM Benchmark, which tracks e-commerce for 800 retailers, said online sales rose 19.7 percent on Thanksgiving. There are signs that stores fared well, too. Wal-Mart, the world's largest retailer, started its holiday sales events at 6 p.m. on Thanksgiving, two hours earlier than last year. Wal-Mart said customers bought at least 2.8 million towels, 2 million TVs, 1.4 million tablets, 300,000 bicycles and 1.9 million dolls. Terry Lundgren, Macy's CEO, said the 15,000 people who showed up for the opening of the flagship store was the most ever, up from 11,000 last year. "Clearly people are in the shopping mood," he said. Of course, not every retailer saw robust crowds.

At Woodland Hills mall in Tulsa, Okla., the owner of Bags and Bangle complained that he had to stay open from 8 p.m. on Thanksgiving to 10 p.m. on Friday. □



Best Buy employees rally after a pep talk Friday, Nov. 29, 2013, in Overland Park, Kan. More than a dozen major U.S. retailers stayed open for 24 hours or more on Thanksgiving Day through Black Friday, and crowds formed early and often over the two days.

(AP Photo/Charlie Riedel)

Medicaid growth may exacerbate US doctor shortage

ABBY GOODNOUGH
© 2013 New York Times
SAN DIEGO - Dr. Ted Mazer is one of the few ear, nose and throat specialists in this region who treat low-income people on Medicaid, so many of his patients travel long distances to see him. But now, as California's Medicaid program is preparing for a major expansion under President Barack Obama's health care law, Mazer says he cannot accept additional patients under the government insurance program for a simple reason: It does not pay enough. "It's a bad situation that is likely to be made worse," he said. His view is shared by many doctors around the country. Medicaid for years has struggled with a shortage of doctors willing to accept its low reimbursement rates and red tape, forcing many patients to wait for

care, particularly from specialists. The Congressional Budget Office predicts that 9 million people will gain coverage through Medicaid next year alone. Community clinics, which typically provide primary but not specialty care, have expanded and hired more medical staff members. And managed-care companies are recruiting doctors, nurse practitioners and other professionals into their networks, sometimes offering higher pay if they improve care while keeping costs down. California officials say they are confident that access will not be an issue. But the state is expecting to add as many as 2 million people to its Medicaid rolls over the next two years - far more than any other state. They will be joining more than 7 million people who are already in the program here. On top of that, only about



Dr. Ted Mazer consults with Oresta Johnson at his ear, nose and throat practice in San Diego in November, 2013. Unlike many Southern California specialists, Mazer has patients on Medicaid, but says he cannot take any more because the payments are too low, and believes the major Medicaid expansion due in 2014 will exacerbate an already-bad situation.

(Emily Berl/The New York Times)

57 percent of doctors in California accept new Medicaid patients, according to a study published last year in the journal Health

Affairs - the second-lowest rate in the nation after New Jersey. Payment rates for Medicaid, known in California as Medi-Cal, are also

low here compared with most states and are being cut by an additional 10 percent in some cases just as the expansion begins.



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Obama speaks with activists fasting for immigration

DARLENE SUPERVILLE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama on Friday told activists who are fasting to protest inaction in Congress on immigration legislation that their "commitment to change" ultimately will help pressure lawmakers to act.

On the day after the U.S. harvest holiday of Thanksgiving, marked by an abundance of food, Obama stopped in at a heated, white tent on the National Mall, home to Washington's most famous monuments, where some activists have drunk only water since Nov. 12 in support of immigration legislation.

Republican House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner has refused to schedule a vote on a comprehensive immigration measure the Senate passed this summer that would offer a path to citizenship for the 11 million

immigrants living in the U.S. illegally and tighten border security. The House prefers a piecemeal approach, but Boehner hasn't said whether lawmakers will consider any bills this year or whether the issue will slip into next year, when midterm-congressional election politics will make legislative action less likely. Many Republicans question offering citizenship to people who broke U.S. immigration laws.

The House's piecemeal approach has moved too slowly to satisfy immigration advocates, including those on the hunger strike as well as a man who shouted during Obama's speech in California for the president to stop separating families by deporting people who are living in the country illegally.

Obama mentioned the activists in an immigration speech in San Francisco earlier this week. He delivered his message in per-

son on Friday, accompanied by first lady Michelle Obama. The White House issued a statement after the approximately 40-minute visit saying that Obama

thanked the hunger strikers "for their sacrifice and dedication and told them that the country is behind them on immigration reform." "The president told them that it is not a question of whether immigration reform will pass, but how soon. He said that the

brave fasters that will help pressure the House to finally act."

Obama was the latest administration official to visit with the activists. Vice Pres-



President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama visit with individuals who are taking part in Fast for Families on the National Mall in Washington, Friday, Nov. 29, 2013. Obama met with the group who are fasting on behalf of immigration reform. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

ident Joe Biden, Cabinet secretaries and top White House advisers have also visited. □

only thing standing in the way is politics, and it is the commitment to change from advocates like these

ident Joe Biden, Cabinet secretaries and top White House advisers have also visited. □



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Utah coal town anxious about future

DAN FROSCH

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PRICE, Utah - For generations, coal has been the lifeblood of this mineral-rich stretch of eastern Utah. Mining families proudly recall all the years they toiled underground. Supply companies line the town streets. Above the road that winds toward the mines, a soot-smudged miner peers out from a billboard with the slogan "Coal = Jobs."

But recently, fear has settled in. The state's oldest coal-fired power plant, tucked among the canyons near town, is set to close, a result of new, stricter federal pollution regulations.

As energy companies tack away from coal, toward cleaner, cheaper natural gas, people here have grown increasingly afraid that their community may soon slip away. Dozens of workers at the facility here, the Carbon Power Plant, have learned that they must retire early or seek other jobs. Local trucking and equipment outfits are preparing to take business elsewhere.

"There are a lot of people worried," said Kyle Davis, who has been employed at the plant since he was 18.

Davis, 56, worked his way up from sweeping floors to managing operations at the plant, whose furnaces have been burning since 1954.

"I would have liked to be here for another five years," he said. "I'm too young to retire."

But Rocky Mountain Power, the utility that operates the plant, has determined that it would be too expensive to retrofit the aging plant to meet new federal standards on mercury emissions. The plant is scheduled to be shut by April 2015.

"We had been working for the better part of three years, testing compliance strategies," said David Eskelsen, a spokesman for the utility. "None of the ones we investigated really would produce the results that would meet the re-

quirements."

For the past several years, coal plants have been shutting down across the country, driven by tougher environmental regulations, flattening electricity demand and a move by utilities toward natural gas.

This month, the board of directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority, the country's largest public power utility, voted to shut eight

place them," said Bruce Nilles, director of the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal campaign, which wants to shut all of the nation's coal plants.

"We have a choice," he said, "which in most cases is cheaper and doesn't have any of the pollution." Coal's downward turn has hit Appalachia hardest, but the effects of the transition toward other energy

We don't have another industry."

Like others in Price, Hopes voiced frustration with the Obama administration, saying it should be investing more in clean coal technology rather than discarding coal altogether. Annual Utah coal production, though, has been slowly declining for a decade, according to the federal Energy Information



A sign supporting the coal industry in Price, Utah in November 2013. Many in price are worried about losing their community when the nearby Carbon Power Palnt closes in April of 2015, a result of stricter new federal pollution regulations.

(Jim McAuley/The New York Times)

coal-powered plants in Alabama and Kentucky and partly replace them with gas-fired power. Since 2010, more than 150 coal plants have been closed or scheduled for retirement.

The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that the stricter emissions regulations for the plants will result in billions of dollars in related health savings and will have a sweeping impact on air quality.

In recent weeks, the agency held 11 "listening sessions" around the country in advance of proposing additional rules for carbon dioxide emissions.

"Coal plants are the single largest source of dangerous carbon pollution in the United States, and we have ready alternatives like wind and solar to re-

sources has started to ripple westward.

Eskelsen said Rocky Mountain Power would place some of the 70 Carbon facility employees at its two other Utah coal plants. Other workers will take early retirement or look for different jobs.

Still, the notion that this pocket of Utah, where Greek, Italian and Mexican immigrants came to mine coal more than a century ago, could survive without it, is hard for people here to comprehend.

"The attack on coal is so broad-reaching in our little community," said Casey Hopes, a Carbon County commissioner, whose grandfather was a coal miner. "The power plants, the mines - they support so many smaller businesses.

Administration.

Last year, mines here produced about 17 million tons of coal, the lowest level since 1987, although production has crept up this year.

"This is the worst we've seen it," said David Palacios, who works for a trucking company that hauls coal to the power plants and whose business will slow once the Carbon plant closes.

Palacios, president of the Southeastern Utah Energy Producers Association, noted that the demand for coal has always ebbed and flowed here.

"But this has been two to three years we're struggling through," he said.

Nilles of the Sierra Club acknowledged that the shift from coal would not be

Relative says girl in chemo case doing ok

AKRON, Ohio (AP) — A U.S.

Amish girl with leukemia spent time at a natural cancer treatment center in Central America after she left home with her parents to avoid being forced to resume chemotherapy treatments, the girl's grandfather said.

Sarah Hershberger, who recently turned 11, her parents and the couple's baby daughter now are in hiding in the United States, Isaac Keim said.

The family left the small Amish community where they live in rural northeast Ohio just days before a state appeals court appointed a guardian in October to take over medical decisions for the Sarah, said Keim, who told the Akron Beacon Journal (<http://bit.ly/180CmZ4>) that he accompanied them to the unnamed clinic.

The Hershbergers have been fighting doctors at Akron's Children's Hospital in court for months after the parents decided to halt the treatments because they were making Sarah sick.

Doctors say her leukemia is treatable, but say she will die within a year without chemotherapy. The hospital sought to force treatment after the family opted to try natural medicines, such as herbs and vitamins.

The family has appealed the court decision that gave an attorney who's also a registered nurse limited guardianship over Sarah. They don't plan on returning until the ruling is reversed.

"What kind of gift would that be, if we could get this resolved and they can come back home without a fear of being in contempt of court or having their child snatched away," Keim said. "We're praying every day that this thing can be resolved and get their lives back together." The Hershberger's five other children are staying with community members near their farm outside the village of Spencer. □

US Financial Front:

On register's other side, little money to spend

STEVEN GREENHOUSE
© 2013 New York Times

In many stores around the country, the workers stocking the shelves and ringing up the gifts are at the very heart of this season's retail lament - many Americans

left behind by the holiday festivities, partly because she was scheduled to work from 7:30 p.m. Thanksgiving to 6 a.m. Friday.

"I'm here watching shoppers buy all these items, and I'm working to help

years, although opposition within the Republican-controlled House makes passage unlikely anytime soon. Major retailers and fast-food companies have opposed an increase, saying it would force them to raise

prices and reduce worker numbers.

Median pay for the nation's 3.4 million fast-food workers stands at \$8.80 an hour. For Tenesha Hueston, a shift manager at a Burger King in Durham, N.C., a \$10.10 minimum wage would be a godsend for her Christmas shopping.

She says her pay - \$7.75 an hour - is too meager for her to buy the gifts her children are hankering for: a bicycle for her 5-year-old son and a Leapfrog Tablet learning toy for her 4-year-old daughter.

Hueston, 36 and recently divorced, does housecleaning on the side, and moved back into her father's house with her children last spring when Burger King reduced her weekly hours.

With a higher wage, Hueston said, "I'd be able to buy things. Maybe I'd be able to move out of my father's house.

Maybe I could get off food stamps. Maybe I could start giving back to the economy."

By a large majority, Ameri-

cans support raising the minimum wage, according to a CBS News Poll done from Nov. 15 through 18. The poll, which surveyed 1,010 Americans, found that 69 percent of respondents approved of raising the minimum wage, while 25 percent opposed the idea.

Thirty-three percent said they backed raising the wage to \$9 an hour, while 36 percent supported an increase to \$10.10 an hour, the amount that congressional Democrats are pushing.

Republicans support an increase by 57 percent to 38 percent, Democrats by 84 percent to 11 percent and independents by 64 percent to 29 percent.

Alan B. Krueger, a Princeton economics professor who stepped down in August as chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers, said an increase in the minimum wage would help ease weakness in consumer demand, a problem for the U.S. economy since the recession hit in late 2007. □



Tenesha Hueston, a shift manager at a Burger King, at her father's home with her children in Wendell, N.C., Nov. 26, 2013. Hueston says her \$7.75 an hour is too meager for her to buy the gifts her children are hankering for, and moved back into her father's home after a recent divorce following Burger King reducing her weekly hours last spring.

(Travis Dove/The New York Times)

are so financially strapped that projections for holiday sales have grown bleaker by the week.

And more so than in years past, the focus is on retail workers as more stores open on Thanksgiving Day, requiring many more to work on the holiday. Even if they have the option of staying home, those still stuck at the bottom economic rung long after the recession's end have little choice but to take on extra shifts.

Food stamps have been cut for some, and many were stung by the payroll tax increase. Even their own companies have set up food drives to aid low-paid employees at individual stores or created help lines advising them how to stretch their food dollars and apply for public assistance.

Chardé Nabors, a mother of two who works as a \$9-an-hour cashier at Sears in the Chicago Loop, feels

these people, and I can't even buy my children the same products," said Nabors, whose 3-year-old son wants a Spider-Man doll she cannot afford.

For retail workers nationwide, who earn a median pay of about \$9.60 an hour, or less than \$20,000 a year, holiday shopping sprees are most often enjoyed by customers on the opposite side of the counter.

On Black Friday, workers at Wal-Mart and their union allies plan to stage protests at some 1,500 Wal-Mart stores to demand higher pay. Moreover, many lawmakers, seeing the squeeze on incomes nationwide, are pushing an idea that they say could give a much-needed boost to retailers' languishing sales: increasing the minimum wage.

Earlier this month, White House officials said they would back a bill in Congress that calls for raising the federal minimum to \$10.10 an hour over two

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China scrambles jets for first time in new air zone

JANE PERLEZ

© 2013 New York Times

BEIJING - China's Air Force scrambled jets on Friday and identified two U.S. sur-

veillance planes and 10 Japanese aircraft over the new air defense zone established by China over disputed islands in the East

China Sea, the Chinese state news media said. The scrambling of the jets was the first move announced by China that it

was enforcing the air defense zone, which it established last weekend. China said at the time that foreign planes flying into the zone would be subject to military action if they did not present prior notification.

The U.S. planes identified by the Chinese jets on Friday were a P-3 and an EP-3, said Col. Shen Jinke, a spokesman for China's Air Force, according to Xinhua, the state-run news agency.

The Chinese account said the 10 Japanese aircraft were of three types of military models.

It named the E-767, an airborne warning and control system aircraft, the P-3 surveillance aircraft and the F-15 jet fighter, but did not say how many planes of each type.

A version of the EP-3 surveillance aircraft was involved in a major diplomatic inci-

dent between China and the United States in 2001 when a U.S. EP-3 collided with a Chinese jet fighter over the South China Sea. The Chinese pilot was killed, and the U.S. plane made an emergency landing on Hainan Island in southern China, an accident that badly damaged relations.

On Friday, under questioning from reporters asking for clarification of China's intentions regarding the new air zone, the spokesman at the Foreign Ministry, Qin Gang, said, "The Air Defense Identification Zone does not equal territorial airspace, and is not an expansion of a country's territorial airspace."

The spokesman also said, "Aircraft of all countries, including commercial aircraft, carrying out normal flight according to international law will not be affected." □



U.S. Navy FA-18 Hornets cram the flight deck of the USS George Washington during a joint military exercise with Japan in the Pacific Ocean near Japan's southernmost island of Okinawa Thursday, Nov. 28, 2013.

(AP Photo/Kyodo News)



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18 abducted in Iraq found dead

DURAID ADNAN

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BAGHDAD - Eighteen people were found dead in an apparent execution-style killing Friday, their bodies dumped on a farm near the predominantly Sunni neighborhood where they were rounded up the night before, according to police.

Armed men in sports utility vehicles and dressed in military uniforms swarmed into the neighborhood of Mashahdi in northern Baghdad late Thursday and singled out 18 people, taking them from separate residences, police said, quoting witness accounts.

The bodies of the victims, who were all Sunnis, were discovered in the morning riddled with bullets, police said.

The victims included a leader from the Dulaimi tribe - one of the largest and most prominent Sunni tribes in Iraq - his son, a local municipal official and an army and police officer. A farmer in the area, Kareem al-Jasim, said he had witnessed the roundup in Mashahdi by men "dressed in military uniforms" who searched houses for about an hour, taking the municipal employee along with them in an apparent show of official business. □

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Thousands protest Ukrainian leader spiking EU deal



Demonstrators hold torn portraits of Ukrainian President Victor Yanukovich and shout "Coward!" during a rally in support of Ukraine's integration with the European Union in the center of Kiev, Ukraine, Friday, Nov. 29, 2013.

(AP Photo/Sergei Grits)

YURAS KARMANAU
Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Around 10,000 protesters crowded into the center of Ukraine's capital Friday night to demand the president's resignation after he shelved a landmark agreement with the European

Union in favor of closer ties with Russia.

An estimated 2,000 police in helmets and riot gear surrounded the demonstrators on Independence Square. There were several small scuffles with police, but no major clashes into the evening.

However, it was unclear how long the protest would be allowed to continue. The square has symbolic weight as the iconic epicenter of the 2004 mass protests known as the Orange Revolution, which forced the rerun of a fraudulent presidential elec-

tion. President Viktor Yanukovich, the focus of those protests, is unlikely to risk allowing another such huge demonstration of discontent. Opposition leaders who spoke to the crowd called for protests to grow. "We will conduct massive protest actions in all of Ukraine. They must witness our strength," declared Arseniy Yatsenyuk, an ally of Yanukovich's arch-foe, the jailed former premier Yulia Tymoshenko. He said the opposition "will do everything" to try to force a presidential election before its scheduled date in 2015.

"Our right to live in a European country was stolen," world boxing champion and prominent opposition figure Vitaly Klitschko said.

At the end of the speeches, protest leaders called for a new mass gathering on Sunday. Most of the crowd remained in place, singing. Tents housing some protesters have been on the square for days.

Many protesters holding Ukrainian and EU flags tore pictures of Yanukovich, who ditched the free trade pact with the EU at Friday's summit in Vilnius.

Yanukovich abruptly changed course for integration with the EU last week when his government announced it was suspending preparations for signing the agreement. The move angered many in Ukraine, where nearly half of the population of around 45 million favors closer ties with the EU. □

South Korea wants talks on US trade pact

YOUKYUNG LEE
AP Business Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea said Friday it will start negotiations to join a U.S.-led trade pact covering a dozen Pacific and Asian nations.

The finance ministry said in a statement that officials will explore the possibility of joining the Trans-Pacific Partnership through the preliminary negotiations. The move is a first step and doesn't commit South Korea to becoming part of the agreement but the trade ministry has been talking up its benefits for the economy.

Joining the trade bloc of 12

countries that includes Japan, Canada, Mexico and Vietnam faces strong opposition from South Korean farmers and the fishing industry.

Export-reliant South Korea has free trade deals with the U.S. and European Union. It is negotiating a free trade deal with China, which is not part of the U.S.-led pact. The Trans-Pacific Partnership is not in effect yet but the U.S. and other countries hope for an agreement by the end of this year. Apart from reducing trade barriers, the pact also requires its members to meet environmental, labor and intellectual property

protection standards.

U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman on Friday welcomed South Korea's expression of interest in joining the TPP and noted its important role in the regional economy.

But he said that the possible entry of any new country into the pact would be expected to occur only after the negotiations among the 12 current members are concluded.

South Korea's GDP will get a boost of around 2.5 percent over 10 years, South Korea's trade ministry said at its first public hearings on the TPP earlier this month. □

Mexican drug cartels now make money exporting ore

MARK STEVENSON

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexican drug cartels looking to diversify their businesses long ago moved into oil theft, pirated goods, extortion and kidnapping, consuming an ever larger swath of the country's economy. This month, federal officials confirmed the cartels have even entered the country's lucrative mining industry, exporting iron ore to Chinese mills.

Such large-scale illegal mining operations were long thought to be wild rumor, but federal officials confirmed they had known about the cartels' involvement in mining since 2010, and that the Nov. 4 military takeover of Lázaro Cárdenas, Mexico's second-largest port, was aimed at cutting off the cartels' export trade.

That news served as a wake-up call to Mexicans that drug traffickers have penetrated the country's economy at unheard-of levels, becoming true Mafia-style organizations, ready to defend their mines

at gun point.

Three Michoacán state detectives were wounded in an ambush earlier this week when they were traveling to investigate a mine taken over by criminals. When reinforcements arrived, those officers were also ambushed, part of a string of attacks on police in Michoacán on Wednesday and Thursday that left two officers dead and about a dozen wounded. The Knights Templar cartel and its predecessor, the La Familia drug gang, have been stealing or extorting shipments of iron ore, or illegally extracting the mineral themselves and selling it through Pacific coast ports, said Michoacán residents, mining companies and current and former federal officials. The cartel had already imposed demands for "protection payments" on many in the state, including shopkeepers, ranchers and farmers. But so deeply entrenched was the cartel connection to mines, mills, ports, export firms and land holders that it took authorities

three years to confront the phenomenon head-on. Federal officials said they are looking to crack down on other ports where drug gangs are operating.

"This is the terrible thing about this process of (the cartel's) taking control of and reconfiguring the state," said Guillermo Valdes Castellanos, the for-

were under concession to private mining companies, sometimes with the aid or complicity of local farmers and land owners, then sell the ore to processors, distributors and even, apparently, foreign firms.

Mexico's Economy Department said the problem was so severe that it prompted the government to quietly

"Since 2010, evidence surfaced of irregular mining of iron in the states of Jalisco, Michoacán and Colima," the department said in a statement to The Associated Press.

"That illegal activity was encouraged by the great demand for iron by countries such as China, to develop their industries," according



In this August 2013 photo, Mexican army soldiers enter the iron ore mine in the town of Aquila, Mexico. A resident of Aquila, said that since 2012, the Knights Templar cartel demanded residents hand over part of the royalty payments from the local iron ore mine operated by Ternium, a Luxembourg-based consortium. Mexican drug cartels long ago moved into oil theft, pirated goods, extortion and kidnapping, but it still came as a shock this month when federal officials revealed the gangs have broadened the scope and sophistication of their economic empires by entering the country's lucrative mining industry, exporting iron ore to Chinese and other foreign mills.

(AP Photo/Agencia Esquema)



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mer head of the country's top domestic intelligence agency. "They managed to impose a Mafia-style control of organized crime, and the different social groups like port authorities, transnational companies and local landowners, had to get in line."

Valdez Castellanos said that even back in 2010, the La Familia cartel would take ore from areas that

toughen rules on exporters in 2011 and 2012 and make them prove they received their ore from established, recognized sources.

Many exporters couldn't. In 2012, the department denied export applications from 13 companies, because they didn't meet the new rules. And the problem wasn't just limited to Michoacán, or the Knights Templar cartel.

to the department. "Many trading companies began to build up big stockpiles of legally and illegally obtained iron (ore), that was later shipped out for export."

A Mexican federal official, who was not authorized to speak on the record, said the cartels would use a combination of threats and outright theft to get the ore from mines. □

Jamaican authorities seize 3,300 warheads

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)

— Police in Jamaica say authorities have seized 3,300 missile warheads and a machine to make missiles and bullets.

Deputy Police Superintendent Steve Brown said Fri-

day that custom officials discovered the weapons late Thursday aboard a ship at Kingston Wharf.

He declined to say where the shipment originated from or its destination. No one has been arrested.

Brown told reporters that police are seeking help from international agencies after their findings.

He said it was the first time authorities had made such a discovery. □

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Berlusconi lawyers deny all 'bunga bunga' payoffs

NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press

ROME (AP) — An Italian court accused ex-Premier Silvio Berlusconi and his lawyers on Friday of tampering with evidence by paying off witnesses in a trial related to his notorious "bunga bunga" parties. It sent its documentation to prosecutors to investigate the possible corruption of a judicial process. Berlusconi's lawyers immediately rejected the accusation and said they expected prosecutors would drop the case. If prosecutors go ahead, the accusation in the court's ruling would lead to a new legal headache for Berlusconi, who this week was kicked out of Parliament for at least six years because of another, unrelated problem: a tax fraud conviction. The court suggested that Berlusconi paid off the

would-be show girls who attended his dinner parties to downplay the sexually charged nature of the evenings when they testified. He did so, the judges suggested, because he was facing related charges in another case involving accusations he paid for sex with an underage prostitute who was also a "bunga bunga" guest. Citing testimony and telephone wiretaps, the Milan court said Berlusconi convened about a dozen of these young women to come to his Milan mansion on Jan. 15, 2011 to meet with his lawyers. They were summoned after the women's homes were searched as part of the police investigation into the parties. From then on, the judges wrote, the women began receiving 2,500 euros (\$3,400) apiece each month from Berlusconi and



Silvio Berlusconi's girlfriend Francesca Pascale listen to Italy's Former Premier Berlusconi during a rally in Rome earlier this week. An Italian court accused Berlusconi and his lawyers on Friday of tampering with evidence by paying off witnesses in a trial related to his notorious "bunga bunga" parties.

(AP Photo/Alessandra Tarantino)

subsequently they offered nearly identical testimony in court denying that the dinner parties had sexual overtones. The amount is

about twice what an average worker in Italy earns a month. The court made the accusation in explaining its

July 19 decision to convict three of Berlusconi's former associates of procuring girls to prostitute themselves at the parties. □

Prosecutor outlines barbaric murder of UK soldier



This is a court artist sketch by Elizabeth Cook of the two men accused of the murder of Fusilier Lee Rigby, on the left is Michael Adebolajo, and Michael Adebowale, during their trial at the Old Bailey in central London, Friday Nov. 29, 2013.

(AP Photo/PA, Elizabeth Cook)

SYLVIA HUI
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Prosecu-

tors showed jurors graphic videotape of the events surrounding the near decapi-

tation of a British soldier on a London street, as the trial of two men opened Friday in the suspected Islamic extremist attack.

Michael Adebolajo, 28, and Michael Adebowale, 22, drove their car directly at Lee Rigby of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, lifting his body onto the hood and slamming it to the windshield, prosecutor Richard Whittam said.

A panel of 12 jurors was then shown security camera videos and images of the defendants dragging Rigby's body from the sidewalk to the middle of the road. The pair did that so that everyone could see the impact of their "barbarous acts," Whittam said.

"They both attacked the motionless body of Lee Rigby," he said. "He was repeatedly stabbed and it appears it was Michael Adebolajo, the first defendant, who made a serious and almost successful attempt to decapitate Lee Rigby with multiple blows to his neck made with the

meat cleaver." Gasps were first heard — and then silence — at London Central Criminal Court as the images played. One video showed Adebolajo agitatedly talking to the camera and saying that his actions were revenge for British troops killing people abroad. □

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Eurozone inflation rise eases pressure on ECB

PAN PYLAS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Welcome news on inflation and unemployment on Friday will ease pressure on the European Central Bank to act again next week to shore up the 17-country eurozone economy. But they do little to ease longer-term worries over the recovery. Eurostat, the EU's statistics office, said unemployment was down for the first time since early 2011 and that inflation edged higher in November, dampening fears that the eurozone is about to face a debilitating period of falling prices, also known as deflation.

The inflation rate rose to 0.9 percent in the year to November from October's 0.7 percent, slightly ahead of market expectations for a 0.8 percent increase.

Still, inflation remains well below the ECB's target of just under 2 percent. It was a sharp fall in October to a near four-year low that spurred the central bank this month to cut its main interest rate to a record low of 0.25 percent.

The fall in inflation had raised fears of deflation, a protracted fall in prices that can cause a slide in consumer spending as individuals put off purchases in the hope of getting better bargains. Deflation has blighted Japan's economy for the best part of two decades. Friday's figures will likely convince the ECB

to hold rates unchanged at its monthly policy next week, especially as a separate survey pointed to a turning point in the labor market.

Frederik Ducrozet, an

the first decline in the rate since February 2011 but still compares unfavorably with the equivalent U.S. rate of 7.3 percent.

Though the overall rate masks huge disparities

point increase in the overall youth unemployment rate to 24.4 percent.

The figures showed labor market conditions in weaker countries like Greece and Spain remained tough.



In this November 2013 photo, President of European Central Bank Mario Draghi adjusts his glasses during a news conference in Frankfurt, Germany, following a meeting of the ECB governing council. The possibility of large-scale bond purchases by the European Central Bank has been broached in recent days as policymakers grapple with alarmingly low inflation and a muted economic recovery from recession. (AP Photo/Michael Probst)

economist at Credit Agricole, said the rise in inflation "should buy the ECB more time to decide whether or not to provide more accommodation."

Separately, Eurostat said unemployment across the eurozone eased from September's record high of 12.2 percent to 12.1 percent in October. That was

across the eurozone, particularly among the young, Eurostat said that the number of people unemployed in the region fell by 61,000 to 19.30 million during the month. The fall, largely a result of declines in the largest economies of Germany and France, was the first since April 2011 and came despite a 0.1 percentage

In Greece, unemployment at last count in August was 27.3 percent, while in Spain it stood at 26.7 percent.

Though Friday's figures may mean the ECB doesn't loosen its policies further next week, many economists think it will be forced to give the region's economy a further shot of support early next year. □

Netherlands loses S&P AAA credit rating

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Standard & Poor's stripped the Netherlands of its triple-A credit rating Friday, saying that the country's growth prospects have deteriorated and it is not performing as well as peers.

It downgraded the country to AA+, meaning the only remaining eurozone countries with AAA ratings from S&P are Germany, Finland and Luxembourg. The Netherlands' finance minister, Jeroen Dijsselbloem, said the downgrade was unsurprising "but disappointing."

The Dutch economy has been hit by falling home prices and rising unemployment, which is expected to hit 8 percent next year.

"The downgrade reflects our opinion that The Netherlands' growth prospects are now weaker than we had previously anticipated, and the real GDP per capita trend growth rate is persistently lower than that of peers at similarly high levels of economic development," S&P said in its announcement.

It said it expects Dutch GDP to fall by 1.2 percent in 2013 and grow by 0.5 percent in 2014.

Dijsselbloem, who is also president of the Eurogroup of finance ministers, has prescribed spending cuts and tax hikes to strengthen Dutch and other European government finances and pave the way for long-term growth. Some economists say such austerity measures are counterproductive during a downturn, but the idea is popular in German-led policy-making circles.

Dijsselbloem said in an interview with RTL television that, despite the downgrade, S&P supports the Cabinet's approach to cutting debt.

But a spokesman for the agency said that's not accurate. "We as a rating agency do not give any endorsements to policy," said Josy Soussan. "We look at measures and assess the impact we think they will have." □

Greece: No deal with debt inspectors

DEREK

GATOPOULOS

NICHOLAS PAPHITIS

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Bailout inspectors postponed a trip to Athens next week, as government officials acknowledged key issues remained unresolved in negotiations needed for future rescue loan payouts. Finance Minister Yannis Stournaras said Friday that inspectors from the "troika" of the European Union, European Central Bank and International Monetary Fund would likely travel to Greece the following week. "We still have not reached an agreement

today on several issues ... The aim is to have this concluded by the end of the year," he said.

Greece and rescue lenders remain at odds over austerity measures needed to cover a 2014 budget gap, and the course of various long-term reforms including mass public sector job cuts. The government is also resisting troika pressure to lift blanket protection measures for distressed home loans. "The government has made a commitment that the homes of the poor or people in economic difficulty will not be endangered," deputy De-

velopment Minister Athanasios Skordas told private Mega television.

"Clearly there is no agreement on this issue. I think everyone understands that. The (troika) has moved some distance from their initial and absolute position, but not as far as we would like."

State hospitals, meanwhile, were operating with emergency staff Friday as doctors and staff held a 24-hour strike against planned health cuts under the country's harsh austerity program.

Strikers held a protest outside the Health Ministry

building in central Athens, and about 2,500 people marched peacefully to Parliament.

Demonstrators included doctors from the state primary health care system — who have extended a strike launched Tuesday until Dec. 9 — as well as residents of Aegean Sea islands who say reforms will deplete local health services.

Health unions are angry at the conservative-led government's plans to suspend and reallocate staff as part of its drive to reform the public sector and reduce the budget deficit. □



Keeping Aruba Clean One Beach At A Time!



PALM BEACH - Recently kids and teachers of 17 different local schools participated in the 12th National Coast and Beach cleanup organized by AHATA (Aruba hotel and tourism association). The kids were super motivated and enthusiastic. As a team they filled up 7 containers of dirt like plastic bags, foam boxes fishing lines, straws, cups bottles and more stuff brought to land by the ocean. The coastline and beaches of our famous baby Beach



and Rodgers beach were thoroughly taken care of. Just like the hotel coastline, Arashi beach, the dunes

close to the lighthouse and many more beaches. Aruba's goal is to have everybody re-use, reduce

and recycle. Keep our island clean as we say in Papiamentu: Un Aruba dushi, sin sushi! ☐



ECO DMS elects Ilaina Franco as an outstanding young leader!

- She'll enjoy an all-expense paid trip to the SITE Conference in Orlando!

PALM BEACH – As part of its 25th anniversary celebration, Eco Destination Management Services of Aruba opted to again give back to the community by re-launching the Young Leader Incentive Program this year. The program was personally created by com-

pany President Wichita Villacres, to recognize young leaders who have shown outstanding service to the community, the industry and the professional position they currently hold, as well as ongoing excellence and involvement with the industry. ECO Destination Management Services is a full-service destination management company in

the Dutch Caribbean. The company has been operating on the islands for over 25 years and its team enjoyed more than 100 years of combined professional experience, as well as unrivaled familiarity with the islands and its venues. Looking ahead to the future, ECO DMS created the Young Leader Incentive Program a number of years ago, in order to help groom young executives to be the future leaders in tourism. After receiving several worthy nominations from among the young executives working for Aruba's tourism industry, ECO DMS chose Ilaina Franka as the ultimate winner. Ilaina is the Director of Events and Banquets at the Aruba Marriott Resort



& Stellaris Casino, and she was nominated by Ramon Ventura, Assistant Director of Food & Beverage at her resort. Representatives of ECO DMS recently came together at the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino, to honor Ilaina as the winner of the Young Leader Incentive Program for 2013.

As the winner, Ilaina won the opportunity of a lifetime. She will be enjoying an all-expense paid trip to



the motivational experiences industry. The event in Orlando will be a milestone for SITE, as the organization is celebrating its 40th anniversary as a global association for the incentive travel and motivational events industry.

About SITE:

Site is the only non-profit global authority connecting motivational experiences with business results. Site has grown since its inception 40 years ago to nearly 2,100 members in 90 countries with 35 local and regional chapters. The community of Site professionals brings best-in-class solutions, insights and global connections to maximize the business impact of motivational experiences regardless of industry, region or culture. Site serves as the source of expertise, knowledge and personal connections that will catapult and sustain professional growth, and help build the value of extraordinary, motivational experiences worldwide. □



Orlando, Florida, where she will attend the SITE Global Conference, courtesy of Eco Destination Management Services and the Aruba Tourism Authority. The SITE Global Conference is the world's premier event for incentive travel and motivational events professionals. On an annual basis this event brings together professionals from over 40 countries who focus on creating excellence and establishing standards in



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7 PM	Island Xtravaganza booth is closed

Stores open from 10 AM until 8 PM

Renaissance Marketplace

9 AM - 10 AM	Zumba Xtravaganza
5 PM - 9 PM	Kids entertainment; Dino Jump, Trampoline, Arts & Crafts, Face Painting, Cupcake & Cookie decorating. Free Popcorn and Cotton Candy.
- 8 P M	Stores offers
6 PM - 8 PM	Sint & Piet
8 PM - 11 PM	Rincon Boyz @ Stage 2
8 PM - 12 AM	'NFuzion @ Stage 1
8 PM	Dreams @ Stage 2
8 PM	Island Xtravaganza booth is closed
9 PM - 9:30 PM	Raffle & Prizes @ Stage 2

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NFL Preview

Just 3 games with winners vs winners this week

The Associated Press

In two seasons, Russell Wilson has made playing in Seattle impenetrable for opposing NFL teams.

Since the day he became the Seattle Seahawks quarterback, Wilson has never lost on his home field. That streak of 13 straight regular-season home wins will be tested on Monday by one of Wilson's idols, New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees.

It's a rousing late-season matchup between the Seahawks, league leaders at 10-1, and Saints, 9-2, that could be an NFC Championship game preview and eventually determine who has home-field advantage in the conference playoffs. No one relishes visiting CenturyLink Field, renowned for acoustics that make it a contender for the loudest outdoor venue in the league.

Nor does anyone really want to go to New Orleans, where the Saints are perfect in 2013.

If this game is as memorable as their last meeting



Seattle Seahawks' Byron Maxwell, top, leaps on the back of Walter Thurmond after Thurmond intercepted and scored against the Minnesota Vikings in the second half of an NFL football game Sunday, Nov. 17, 2013, in Seattle.

Associated Press

in January 2011 in the post-season, then it will be special.

Back then, the Seahawks, the NFC West champs with a losing record, upset the Saints, the 10-point favorites and defending Super Bowl champions.

Marshawn Lynch's 67-yard touchdown run late in the fourth quarter remains a must-see highlight. He's been a beast again this year, needing 75 yards to reach 1,000 for the fifth time in career.

Meanwhile, Brees has won

nine straight starts on Monday nights.

Only two other games involve two teams with winning marks: Denver (9-2) at Kansas City (9-2), and Arizona (7-4) at Philadelphia (6-5). The Broncos handed the Chiefs their first loss

two weeks ago, and the rematch has lost some of its luster with Denver's collapse in New England last weekend and Kansas City's top-ranked defense being torched by San Diego when linebackers and sacks threats Tamba Hali and Justin Houston left with injuries.

Hali expects to play. Houston's availability, just as critical for Kansas City, is far less likely.

The folks in Denver are questioning Peyton Manning's ability to win in the cold after his so-so performance at New England. Temperatures are not projected to dip below freezing at Arrowhead Stadium on Sunday. "We're tied for first," Broncos interim coach Jack Del Rio said. "We're 9-2; we've won a lot of games. We've got some ball in front of us and we're getting excited for the very next one. That's where we are." The Cardinals and Eagles are on the rise.

Continued on Page 21

NHL Capsules

Chara caps Bruins rally past Rangers

The Associated Press

Bruins 2, Rangers 2

BOSTON (AP) — Zdeno Chara and Patrice Bergeron scored third-period goals to lift the Bruins. Brad Marchand also scored for the Eastern Conference-leading Bruins, who improved to 9-2-2 in their last 13 games.

Rick Nash and Ryan McDonagh scored for the Rangers, who completed a five-game road trip 3-2. Tuukka Rask stopped 17

shots for Boston, which hasn't lost in regulation at home in its last 10 games (8-0-2).

Henrik Lundqvist made 25 saves for the Rangers, who played their first game in Boston since the Bruins eliminated them in five games in the second round of the Eastern Conference playoffs last spring. Flyers 2, Jets 1

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Scott Hartnell and Sean Couturier provided the of-

fense while Steve Mason stopped all but one shot as the Philadelphia Flyers skated to a 2-1 victory over the Winnipeg Jets on Friday afternoon.

The Flyers (11-12-2) won their fifth straight game at home after dropping their previous two on the road at Florida and Tampa Bay. Mason turned away 25 shots in the early matinee, including an impressive pad save on Matt Halischuk on a 2-on-1 Jets



As the referee signals a goal, Boston Bruins defenseman Zdeno Chara celebrates his winning goal as New York Rangers' Ryan Callahan (24) skates away during the third period of Boston's 3-2 win in a NHL hockey game in Boston Friday, Nov. 29, 2013.

Associated Press

chance in the second. He improved to 3-0-1 in his career against the Jets (12-

12-4).

Both Flyers goals came off Winnipeg turnovers. □

NFL Capsules

Ravens hold on for 22-20 win over Steelers

BALTIMORE (AP) — Justin Tucker kicked five field goals, and the Baltimore Ravens stopped a 2-point conversion with 1:03 left to survive a comeback bid by the Pittsburgh Steelers and escape with a 22-20 victory Thursday night.

After Pittsburgh scored on a 1-yard touchdown pass from Ben Roethlisberger to Jericho Cotchery to get within two points, Roethlisberger's conversion pass slipped through the hands of Emmanuel Sanders, who was screened by Chykie Brown.

The victory provided the Ravens (6-6) with their first winning streak since September and pushed them ahead of the Steelers (5-7) and four other teams in the race for the final wild-card slot in the AFC. It also avenged a 19-16 loss to their division rivals last month.

Tucker connected on kicks of 43, 34, 38, 45 and 48 yards after Joe Flacco threw a first-quarter touchdown pass to Torrey Smith. **DETROIT (AP)** — Matthew Stafford made up for some mistakes with three touchdown passes, including one to Calvin Johnson, to help the Detroit Lions score 37 straight points after an awful start to beat the Green Bay Packers 40-10 on Thursday.

The Lions (7-5) had lost their last two games, five consecutive against Green Bay and a franchise-record nine straight in their annual showcase on Thanksgiving.



Baltimore Ravens quarterback Joe Flacco (5) throws to a receiver in the first half of an NFL football game against the Pittsburgh Steelers, Thursday, Nov. 28, 2013, in Baltimore.

Associated Press

The Packers (5-6-1) have a five-game winless streak for the first time since 2008, showing how valuable Aaron Rodgers is for the franchise. Rodgers has missed four-plus games since fracturing his left collarbone.

Matt Flynn became the fourth starting quarterback for Green Bay this year and was sacked seven times, once by Ndamukong Suh for a safety.

COWBOYS 31, RAIDERS 24 ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — DeMarco Murray ran for three touchdowns, backup Lance Dunbar had a career-high 82 yards rushing and Dallas overcame Oakland's fumble return for a score on the opening kickoff.

Murray had 63 yards rushing but his highlight was the

finishing work, including a 7-yard score to put Dallas ahead for good early in the fourth quarter.

Dunbar, who went out with a left knee sprain, sparked the tying and go-ahead touchdown drives in the second half, highlighted by a 45-yard run that led to a 4-yard scoring pass from Tony Romo to Dez Bryant. The Cowboys (7-5) moved two games above .500 for the first time since late last season. The Raiders (4-8) guaranteed an 11th straight season without a winning record.

Matt McGloin had a strong first half for the Raiders, leading consecutive TD drives that put Oakland up 21-7. □



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NBA fines Kidd \$50,000 for spilling drink on court

BRIAN MAHONEY

AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Jason Kidd dropped more than a soda in an attempt to delay a game. He ended up dropping \$50,000 for the stunt. The NBA fined the Brooklyn Nets coach on Thursday, saying he intentionally spilled his drink on the court as an unusual stall tactic. Kidd bumped into Brooklyn reserve Tyshawn Taylor with 8.3 seconds left in the Nets' 99-94 loss to the Lakers on Wednesday, causing his drink to spill. A video of the fumble showed Kidd appearing to tell Taylor to "hit me" as the guard walked toward the bench, and the resulting delay while the floor was being cleaned allowed the Nets, who were out of timeouts, to diagram a play. Kidd denied any intent after the game, joking that he had "sweaty palms" and was "never good with the ball." □



In this photo taken on Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2013, Brooklyn Nets head coach Jason Kidd, center right, watches as attendants clean up a spilled drink beside the Nets bench in the second half of an NBA basketball game at the Barclays Center in New York.

Associated Press

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

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Driftwood Restaurant. This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95 **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 www.driftwoodaruba.com Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.

Lara Gut wins season-opening World Cup downhill



Switzerland's Lara Gut heads for the finish line during the women's World Cup Downhill skiing competition, Friday, Nov. 29, 2013, in Beaver Creek, Colo.

Associated Press

PAT GRAHAM
AP Sports Writer

BEAVER CREEK, Colorado
(AP) — Lara Gut likes a downhill course icy and extreme, with just a touch of technical elements along the way.

No wonder she felt so comfortable on the new Beaver Creek track, finding speed in steep spots where others tapped the brakes. Quick in training all week, the Swiss star carried it over to race day. She breezed to her second World Cup win of the season, taking the season-opening downhill Friday in an event Lindsey Vonn skipped to rehab her right knee.

Gut was nearly flawless along the challenging course, finishing in 1 minute, 41.26 seconds. She beat Tina Weirather of Liechtenstein by 0.47 seconds. Elena Fanchini of Italy finished third. Gut had the fastest time in two of three training sessions this week on the course built for the 2015 world championships. This difficult hill almost felt custom made for her.

"I like the snow. I like the slope, because you just have to fight," said Gut, who also captured a giant slalom race in Soelden, Austria, in October. "I'm in good shape right now. Everything is going well."

That was hardly the case four years ago when Gut dislocated her hip during giant slalom training and missed the entire season, including the Vancouver Games. These days, everything the 22-year-old skier does is with an eye on the Sochi Olympics in February.

"I've been working so hard to be back," Gut said. "I had to build everything again, my body, my skiing skills, my feeling on the snow. I think right now, just everything is paying off."

The Americans didn't have an ideal day on their home hill, with Stacey Cook turning in the best finish at 19th place, 2.23 seconds behind Gut. Julia Mancuso wound up 20th.

"We really wanted to represent our team well to the home crowd," Cook said. "I don't think that happened today."

The U.S. squad was missing Vonn, who was over in nearby Vail squeezing in some morning super-G training runs as she strengthens her knee. Vonn didn't attend the race because she said watching would be "too hard on me."

The reigning Olympic downhill champion was planning a return for this race after tearing ligaments in her knee during an accident at the world championships in February. She was on target, too, before her crash during training last week at the speed center in Copper Mountain.

Vonn remains hopeful of a return next week in Lake Louise, Alberta.

"It's looking a lot better than everyone expected," Vonn said of her recovery. "Things are going well."

Asked if it mattered that Vonn wasn't in the starting gate, Gut responded: "It's not like a tennis match where two people are playing against (each other)."

"Here, we're 60 in the gate. If Lindsey is not here, we're 59. She's a really a strong skier, but World Cup is not just about Lindsey."

Gut won two silver medals at the 2009 world championships in Val d'Isere, France, about seven months before the crash in which she hurt her hip. She was skiing well and, if healthy, might have been a factor when Vonn won her Olympic downhill in Vancouver. □

Adam Scott holds 2nd-round lead at Australian Open

SYDNEY (AP) — Adam Scott held a two-shot advantage over Rory McIlroy as the tournament's star players moved to the top of the Australian Open lead-

the Triple Crown of Australian majors. McIlroy felt lucky to have escaped the worsening conditions. "The weather wasn't as



Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland laughs as he waits to tee off during the second round of the Australian Open golf tournament in Sydney, Australia, Friday, Nov. 29, 2013.

Associated Press

derboard at Royal Sydney on Friday.

Scott shot 2-under-par 70 for a two-round total of 12-under 132. McIlroy, playing in the morning and avoiding the rain and storms that later hit the course, had a 65.

Scott and McIlroy will play together on Saturday in the third round.

"It was always going to be a day where you just had to hang on," Scott said of the tough conditions. "He (McIlroy) is one of the best players in the world so I'm going to have to bring my best game."

Australian Richard Green shot 66 and was three strokes behind Scott, who is trying to add the Australian Open to his Australian PGA and Australian Masters titles to become the second player after Robert Allenby in 2005 to capture

bad as we thought it was going to be and the wind didn't pick up," he said. "So I knew we could take advantage of that, and the greens were a little bit softer as well."

Defending champion Peter Senior had an 81 Friday and did not make the cut. Kevin Streelman, who played with Matt Kuchar in the American team at last week's World Cup, retired on the fourth hole due to an eye infection. Playing for the first time in Australia, he was later taken to hospital for treatment.

Streelman, playing with Scott and Jason Day, shot 70 in the opening round Thursday and began Friday's round with a birdie. But as his eye condition worsened, he had a 5 on the par-3 third and a bogey on the par-4 fourth before deciding to retire. □

Geek Wars

Techies vs. NSA: Encryption arms race escalates

MARTHA MENDOZA

AP National Writer

SAN JOSE, California (AP)

— Encrypted email, secure instant messaging and other privacy services are booming in the wake of the National Security Agency's recently revealed surveillance programs. But the flood of new computer security services is of variable quality, and much of it, experts say, can bog down computers and isn't likely to keep out spies.

In the end, the new geek wars, between tech industry programmers on the one side and government spooks, fraudsters and hackers on the other, may leave people's PCs and businesses' computer systems encrypted to the teeth but no better protected from hordes of savvy code crackers.

"Every time a situation like this erupts you're going to have a frenzy of snake oil sellers who are going to throw their products into the street," says Carson Sweet, CEO of San Francisco-based data storage security firm CloudPassage. "It's quite a quandary for the consumer."

Encryption isn't meant to keep out hackers, but when it's designed and implemented correctly, it alters the way messages look. Intruders who don't have a decryption key see only gobbledygook.

A series of disclosures from



In this undated file photo made available by Google shows the campus-network room at a data center in Council Bluffs, Iowa. With the cooperation of foreign allies, the NSA is potentially gaining access to every email sent or received abroad, or between people abroad, from Google and Yahoo's email services, as well as anything in Google Docs, Maps or Voice, according to a series of articles in the Washington Post.

former intelligence contractor Edward Snowden this year has exposed sweeping U.S. government surveillance programs. The revelations are sparking fury and calls for better encryption from citizens and leaders in France, Germany, Spain and Brazil who were reportedly among those tapped. Both Google and Yahoo, whose data center communications lines were also reportedly tapped, have committed

to boosting encryption and online security. Although there's no indication Facebook was tapped, the social network is also upping its encryption systems.

"Yahoo has never given access to our data centers to the NSA or to any other government agency. Ever," wrote Yahoo CEO Marissa Mayer in a Nov. 18 post on the company's Tumblr blog announcing plans to encrypt all of its services by early next year.

"There is nothing more important to us than protecting our users' privacy."

For those who want to take matters into their own hands, encryption software has been proliferating across the Internet since the Snowden revelations broke. Hemi.is — Swedish for "secret" — is marketed as a secure messaging app for your phone. MailPile aims to combine a Gmail-like user friendly interface with a sometimes clunky

technique known as public key encryption. Younited hopes to keep spies out of your cloud storage, and Pirate Browser aims to keep spies from seeing your search history. A host of other security-centered programs with names like Silent Circle, RedPhone, Threema, TextSecure, and Wickr all promise privacy.

Many of the people behind these programs are well known for pushing the boundaries of privacy and security online. Hemi.is is being developed by Peter Sunde, co-founder of notorious file sharing website The Pirate Bay. Finland's F-Secure, home of Internet security expert Mikko Hypponen, is behind Younited. Dreadlocked hacker hero Moxie Marlinspike is the brains behind RedPhone, while Phil Zimmerman, one of the biggest names in privacy, is trying to sell the world on Silent Circle. Even flamboyant file sharing kingpin Kim Dotcom is getting in on the secure messaging game with an encrypted email service.

The quality of these new programs and services is uneven, and a few have run into trouble. Nadim Kobeissi, developed encrypted instant messaging service Cryptocat in 2011 as an alternative to services such as Facebook chat and Skype.

Associated Press

Continued on Page 28

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Markets fizzle, S&P 500 gains for 8th straight week



A board at the New York Stock Exchange shows the Stand & Poor's 500 index, center, Friday, Nov. 29, 2013. Stocks rose for most of the day Friday, but petered out in the last half hour of trading. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

STEVE ROTHWELL

AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. stock market fizzled Friday at the end of a holiday-shortened trading day, but still logged its longest streak of weekly gains in a decade.

Stocks have surged this year as the economy maintains a slow but steady recovery and corporations keep earnings growing. Demand for stocks also has been bolstered by Federal Reserve policies that have held down interest rates, making bonds less attractive investments than stocks.

Stocks rose for most of the day Friday, but petered out in the last half hour of trading. The New York Stock Exchange and the

Nasdaq closed early, at 1 p.m. (1800 GMT), and activity was lower than average a day after Thanksgiving.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index ended down one point, or 0.1 percent, to 1,805.81. The Dow Jones industrial average slipped 10 points, or 0.1 percent, to 16,086.41.

The Nasdaq composite, however, rose 15 points, or 0.4 percent, to 4,059.89.

The S&P 500 rose for an eighth straight week, its longest stretch of weekly advances in a decade.

Retailers were one of two industry groups in the S&P 500 to rise as the busiest shopping day of the year, Black Friday, got underway.

More than a dozen major chains opened on Thanksgiving Day and planned to keep their doors open through Friday, the traditional start to the holiday shopping season. Crowds formed early and often throughout the two days. Investors will be following sales trends closely to get a read on the health of retailers, as well as the wider economy. Consumer spending is a critical component of the U.S. economy.

Shares of EBay, Amazon and Best Buy all advanced. EBay rose \$1.22, or 3 percent, to \$50.52, making it the second-biggest gainer in the S&P 500 index.

"The early signs of retail traffic are encouraging, but it's still very early," said Paul Mangus, head of equity research and strategy for Wells Fargo Private Bank.

The S&P 500 index has surged 26.6 percent this year, propelling it to a string of record highs. If its gain holds, it would be the strongest year for the index since 1998, when it rose 26.7 percent.

November is typically a strong month for the stock market, and this year was no exception.

The S&P 500 ended the month with a gain of 2.8 percent, the ninth month this year that the index has advanced. □

Retailers worry that this season will come up short

David Kaplan

© 2013 Houston Chronicle

The period between Black Friday and Christmas will be the shortest in more than a decade - with six fewer shopping days than last year - and that makes Bill McClintock uneasy.

McClintock, who owns the Memorial-area shop Ann's Fine Gifts, reports people have been walking into his store lately, saying, "Oh, we're just getting ideas, no hurry."

But not long from now, he said, they will start to notice that time is running out. He expects bedlam in his store during the Christmas season's waning shopping days.

McClintock is not the only retailer nervously eyeing the calendar. Some worry people will spend less because they have fewer days to shop, although analysts dismiss such concerns as overblown.

Economists with the International Council of Shopping Centers trade group have found the correlation between the number of days between Black Friday and Christmas and overall holiday sales is weak at best, spokesman Jesse Tron said.

"A lot of retailers out there are worried, but it's really

not that big of an issue," Tron said.

But, undeniably, the compressed time frame has led retailers to offer more discounts earlier in the season. A growing number of stores are opening Thanksgiving, a day ahead of Black Friday.

"Clearly, we've been a little more promotional before Thanksgiving," said Michael Glazer, CEO of Houston-based Stage Stores, a chain whose portfolio includes 54 Palais Royal stores in the area.

He cited Palais Royal's buy-one-get-one-free sale Tuesday and Wednesday as an example, and said other chains have been exceptionally promotional before Thanksgiving this year. He said they will do so after Christmas, as well.

"It's a really good year for consumers," Glazer said.

Analysts not worried
The number of days between Black Friday and Christmas ranges between 26 and 32, depending on when Thanksgiving falls. That number is at the minimum for the first time in 11 years.

Steve Coulombe, senior managing director of FTI Consulting, a global business advisory firm, said the high level of discounting

could cut into profits.

Otherwise, he suggested, there is little evidence for the claim that fewer shopping days mean lower sales. If you look at the times holiday sales have

promotions kick off earlier each year, Coulombe said. Unlike a decade ago, retailers are offering deep discounts as early as the start of November, he said. FTI Consulting is forecasting



Shoppers rest on furniture at the Macy's store in Midtown, in New York. The period between Black Friday and Christmas will be the shortest in more than a decade - with six fewer shopping days than last year - worrying many retailers that this season will come up short.

(Christopher Gregory/The New York Times)

risen 6 percent or higher since 1998, it has never been during 31- or 32-day periods, Coulombe said.

And three out of five seasons that had 26 or 27 days between Black Friday and Christmas saw healthy sales growth for the season, he said.

The case also can be made that the number of holiday shopping days is actually growing because sales

holiday sales to increase by 4.9 percent this year over last.

"We think that's a strong year," Coulombe said.

"Definitely a concern"

Marshal Cohen, chief industry analyst at the NPD Group, acknowledged that fewer shopping days between the two holidays may possibly result in fewer impulse purchases and self-gifting. □

EU BIZ NOTES

Bids rising for destruction of Syria weapons

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — The chief of the global chemical weapons watchdog says 28 private companies have told the organization they are willing to destroy chemicals that form part of Syria's toxic agent program. Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons spokesman Christian Chartier said Friday that the organization's Director-General Ahmet Uzumcu revealed the offers at a meeting earlier in the day. No further details were immediately available. The organization sought expressions of interest last week from companies who want a role in "the treatment and disposal of hazardous and non-hazardous organic and inorganic chemicals" from Syria. The deadline was Friday night. The most toxic and weaponized chemicals in the Syrian stockpile will still have to be destroyed at a secure facility under OPCW supervision, most likely on a ship. □

Swiss declares banks cleared to for US tax deal

GENEVA (AP) — The Swiss government says it has cleared the first batch of banks to cooperate with U.S. authorities under a deal to stem tax evasion. The Cabinet gave its approval at a meeting Friday but said in a statement that it won't give information on the number of banks involved or name them. The agreement allows Swiss banks to settle any potential U.S. charges if they disclose information related to American assets. Some would also have to pay a penalty. Banks wanting to participate have to seek individual permission to do so from the government. Switzerland has been trying to shed its image as a haven for tax evasion and money laundering carried out through misuse of its famous banking secrecy. □

Small company helps Twitter make money

P. SOLOMON BANDA
The Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — Twitter just issued its IPO but a lingering question is how the popular worldwide microblog company will turn a profit. One U.S. company thinks it has found one way to help Twitter, and itself, make money.

Wayin has partnered up with the Denver Broncos football team to project tweeted photos and tweets from fans onto the Sports Authority Field at Mile High's Thundervision 2, the stadium's marquee 40-foot (12-meter) high, by 220-foot (67-meter) wide video scoreboard.

The software allows ads to be placed next to the tweets to generate revenue. It's unclear how that could impact Twitter's bottom line. None of the companies would discuss how much money is generated through the deal.

The Broncos rolled out Wayin's software during the game versus division rival Kansas City Chiefs on Nov. 17.

The team uses the soft-

ware to search terms or so-called hashtags to find tweets by category from the thousands sent about the game and then pick

just going to put up anything and everything because as you can imagine, there are some things you don't want to pull right in,"



Denver Broncos face Kansas City Chiefs in this November 2013 photo, at Sports Authority Field at Mile High in Denver. One Colorado-based company thinks it has found one way to help Twitter, and itself, make money. Wayin has partnered up with the Broncos to project tweeted photos and tweets from fans onto the Sports Authority Field at Mile High's Thundervision 2, the stadium's marquee 40-foot high, by 220 foot wide video scoreboard. (AP Photo/Joe Mahoney)

the ones to send to the scoreboard and 1,100 television screens throughout the stadium, as well as to the Broncos social media hub on the Web.

"The key is that we're not

said Sandy Young, senior marketing manager for the Broncos who is responsible for picking the tweets.

It's unclear how many companies such as Wayin, co-founded by Sun Micro-

systems founder Scott McNealy, are out there striking deals with companies to use the Twitter feed. Twitter declined to discuss the matter.

"It's no secret that Twitter has become the roar of the crowd during televised games, but we're also seeing teams embrace Twitter for the in-stadium experience," Geoff Reiss, head of sports at Twitter said in a statement.

Experts estimate that Twitter makes 85 percent of its money through so-called "native" advertising that shows up on the feed in the form of text, said Michael Myers, a business professor at the University of Denver.

"I think they'll experiment with how to make money," Myers said. "See if someone can curate their content and their data in a format that makes the customer so they don't have to reach out to the Denver Broncos themselves."

All fans have to do is send in their tweets, if they remember to charge their phones before heading to the stadium. □

Australia blocks ADM bid for GrainCorp

NEIL GOUGH

© 2013 New York Times

HONG KONG - The Australian government Friday rejected a \$2.7 billion takeover bid for GrainCorp by U.S. agribusiness giant Archer Daniels Midland, saying the deal was against the national interest.

In a surprise decision, Australian Treasurer Joe Hockey announced that the country's foreign investment review board had failed to reach a consensus on the matter and that he personally made the call blocking the deal, nodding to opposition from smaller grain growers and the general public.

"Many industry participants, particularly growers in eastern Australia, have expressed concern that the proposed acquisition could reduce competition and impede growers' ability to access the grain storage, logistics and distribution network," Hockey said in a statement.

"Allowing it to proceed

could risk undermining public support for the foreign investment regime and ongoing foreign investment more generally," he said. "This would not be in our national interest."

Prime Minister Tony Abbott, who leads the conservative Liberal-National coalition that took office in September, ending the Labor Party's six years of leadership, had pledged that the country would remain "open for business" during his term.

But the rejection of the ADM bid for GrainCorp may raise concerns among foreign investors, and the decision was immediately criticized by the opposition. "This decision by the treasurer means that Australia will miss out on investment it should have received - jobs won't be created that should have been created, and the Australian economy will be worse off," said Chris Bowen, the opposition spokesman on treasury issues, ac-

cording to the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

"If you want to ensure Australia's food security, then you ensure investment in Australia's food and agricultural industry," Bowen

GrainCorp for more than a year, and this past week it offered to invest more in Australia if it succeeded in its bid for one of the country's biggest grain producers. The sweetened deal



The Archer Daniels Midland Company logo is seen on a tanker truck at the ADM plant in Decatur, Ill. The Australian government Friday rejected a \$2.7 billion takeover bid for GrainCorp by U.S. agribusiness giant Archer Daniels Midland, saying the deal was against the national interest.

(AP Photo/Seth Perlman)

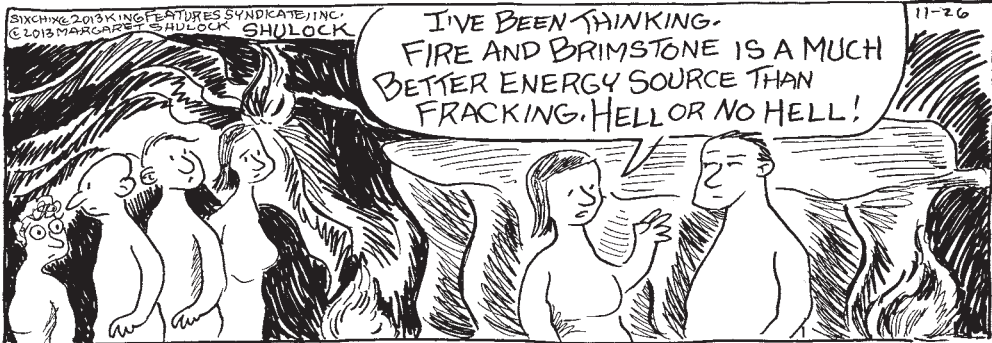
said. "Whether that investment be foreign investment or domestic investment, you ensure investment."

ADM, based in Decatur, Ill., had sought to acquire

was worth 3 billion Australian dollars, or \$2.7 billion, in cash and dividends, with ADM's pledging to invest an additional 500 million dollars in the domestic grain business. □



6 Chix

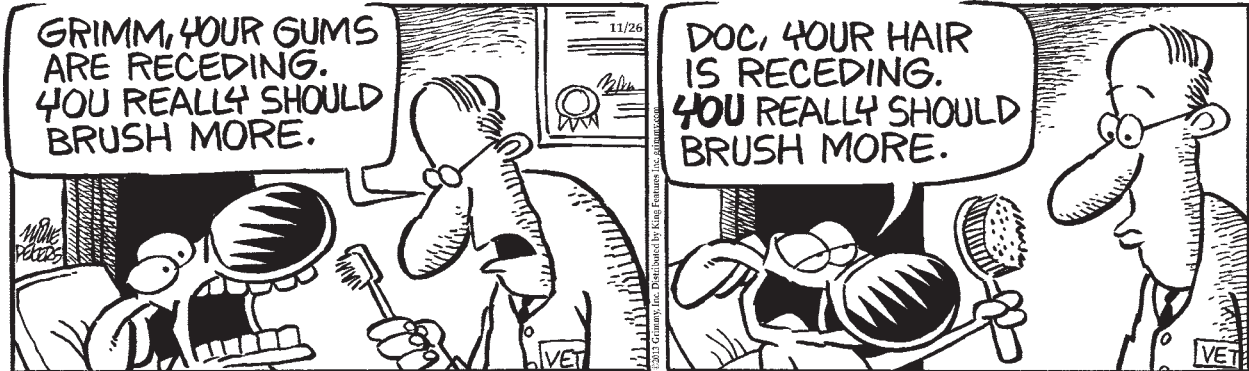


IN A QUIET CORNER OF HADES

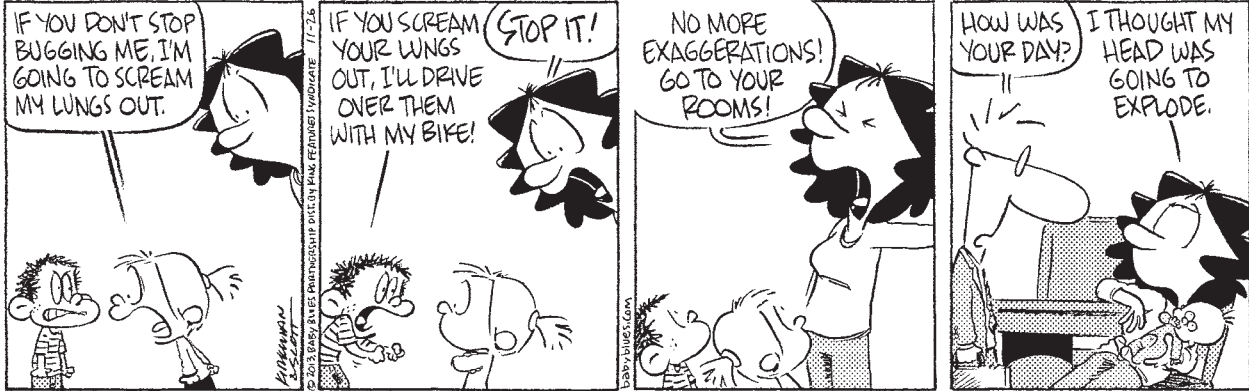
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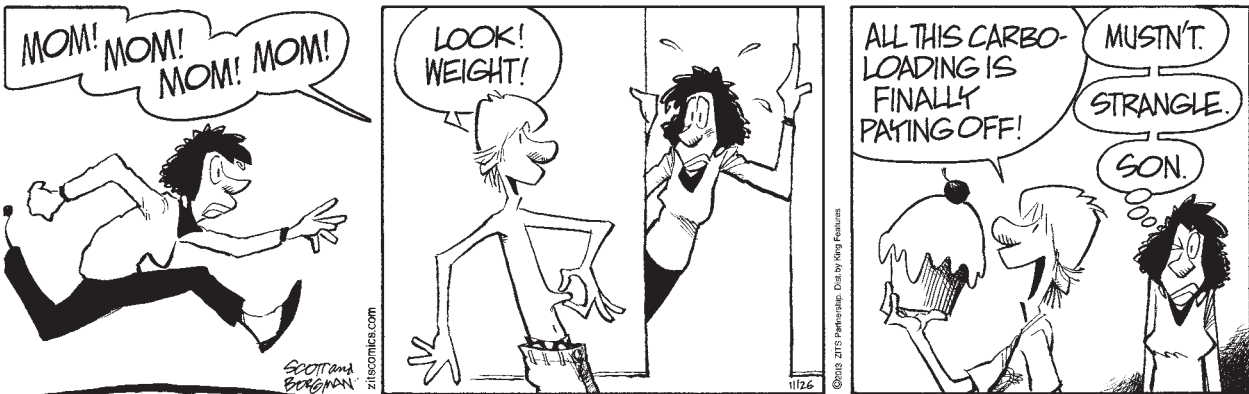
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		2			4	3		
	7						1	
9				8	1			2
1		4	2		6			
		3				4		
			1		9	8		3
8			7	6				4
	2						7	
		9	5			2		

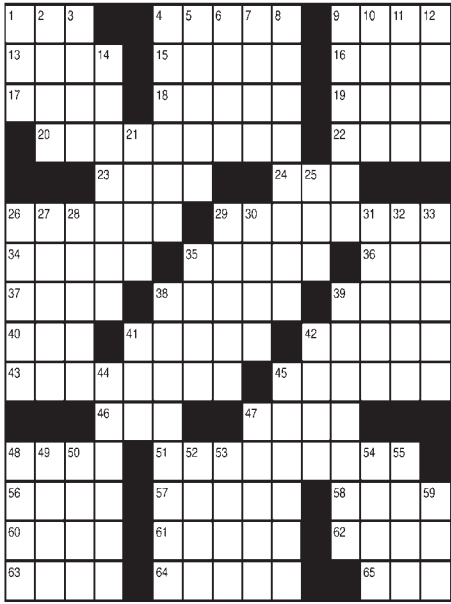
Difficulty Level ★★
11/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

7	2	3	9	8	5	6	1	4
9	4	6	1	3	7	2	5	8
5	1	8	6	4	2	3	7	9
2	6	9	8	5	1	4	3	7
8	7	5	3	9	4	1	6	2
1	3	4	7	2	6	8	9	5
4	9	2	5	1	3	7	8	6
6	5	1	4	7	8	9	2	3
3	8	7	2	6	9	5	4	1

- ACROSS
1 the time; constantly
4 Marsh
9 Majority
13 Dial or Ivory
15 Fight verbally
16 In a lazy way
17 "Oh, for Pete's sake!"
18 Actress Sally
19 Person, place or thing
20 Down in the dumps
22 Encourage
23 One of the three tenses
24 Whopper
26 Take willingly
29 Devices often hooked to PCs
34 "A day late and a dollar short"
35 Elephant nose
36 Encountered
37 Show-offs
38 Fork tine
39 Unexceptional
40 Leprechaun
41 Army vehicles
42 Spud
43 Commandeers a plane in flight
45 Nine tens
46 Australian bird that cannot fly
47 Nourish
48 Not quite closed
51 Buildings full of books
56 Apple's center
57 Creek
58 Putin's "No"
60 Abound
61 Run the law; commit crime
62 Equipment
63 Kill
64 Rough & noisy
65 Parched



Monday's Puzzle Solved

R	A	D	A	R	S	L	A	M	P	A	S	S
O	P	I	N	E	P	I	L	E	R	U	T	H
M	E	N	D	S	O	O	P	S	O	D	O	R
E	X	E	R	T	I	O	N	S	A	T	I	R
E	A	R	L	D	E	V	O	T	E	D		
P	O	T	A	T	O	B	A	S	I	C		
A	W	E	E	N	T	E	R	D	O	D	G	E
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- 35 Long journey
38 Odd
39 Making smooth
41 Bread spread
42 Bleachers level
44 Actor Irons
45 In a tidy way
47 Father of psychoanalysis
48 Performs
49 Singer Billy
50 Length times
52 News, for short
53 Hard hit
54 Watched
55 Burn
59 Give it a go

History Of Palestinians Unmoored In Photos

ISABEL KERSHNER

© 2013 New York Times

JERUSALEM - There is one picture of Palestinian children studying around a small table by the dim light of gas lamps in the Beach Camp in Gaza, and another of children peeking over a sandy dune, with rows of small, uniform shacks of a desolate refugee camp in the background. In a third, a family walks across the

So officials started a preservation mission, digitizing the archive, which also documents the work of the agency. The exhibit that opened Thursday, called "The Long Journey," will soon go on tour to large cities in the West Bank, Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon and possibly Syria, and will also be shown at cultural and political centers in Europe and North America. The images

of the two sides' clashing historical narratives. So it was perhaps inevitable that some Israelis would view the new memorialization of the refugee experience through a prism of politics and contention. "When was the last time that any United Nations agency raised so much money and invested so much effort in organizing and circulating around the world the documentation of a specific plight like that of the Palestinian refugees? Never," said Yigal Palmor, the spokesman for Israel's Foreign Ministry. □



An undated handout photo from 1952 of Nahr el Bared, a Palestinian refugee camp near Lebanon, one of the first camps resulting from the Arab-Israeli conflict in 1948. An exhibit culled from half a million United Nations Relief and Works Agency negatives, prints, slides and film footage documents the history of Palestinian refugees since the 1948 war displaced them. (S. Madver/UNRWA via The New York Times)

Allenby Bridge, the father carrying two bulging suitcases, a young son clutching a white ball, heading east over the Jordan River. These are a few of the black and white images, many of them powerful and haunting, that will eventually constitute a digital archive compiled by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, the first part of which was unveiled Thursday at a gallery in the Old City here. Together, they capture the Palestinian refugee experience from the 1948 war onward, giving form to a seminal chapter in Palestinian history, identity and collective memory. For decades, about half a million negatives, prints, slides and various forms of film footage have been hidden away in the archive of UNRWA, the organization that assists Palestinian refugees. Stored in buildings in Gaza and Amman, Jordan, the materials had begun to grow moldy.

will also be made accessible to the general public on a special website. "This is an important piece of work," Filippo Grandi, the agency's commissioner-general, told reporters at the opening in the Old City. "It is a contribution to building a national heritage for the Palestinians." Palestinians refer to the events of 1948 as al-Nakba, Arabic for "the catastrophe." About 700,000 Arabs fled or were expelled from their homes during the Arab-Israeli war over the foundation of Israel. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were later displaced by the Arab-Israeli war of 1967, some becoming refugees twice over. Tens of thousands have recently been displaced again, reliving the trauma, because of the civil war raging in Syria. But the refugee issue remains one of the most delicate and complex elements of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, at the core

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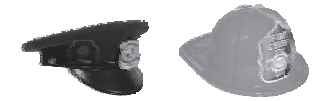
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Did Comet ISON survive? Scientists see tiny hope

KARL RITTER

Associated Press

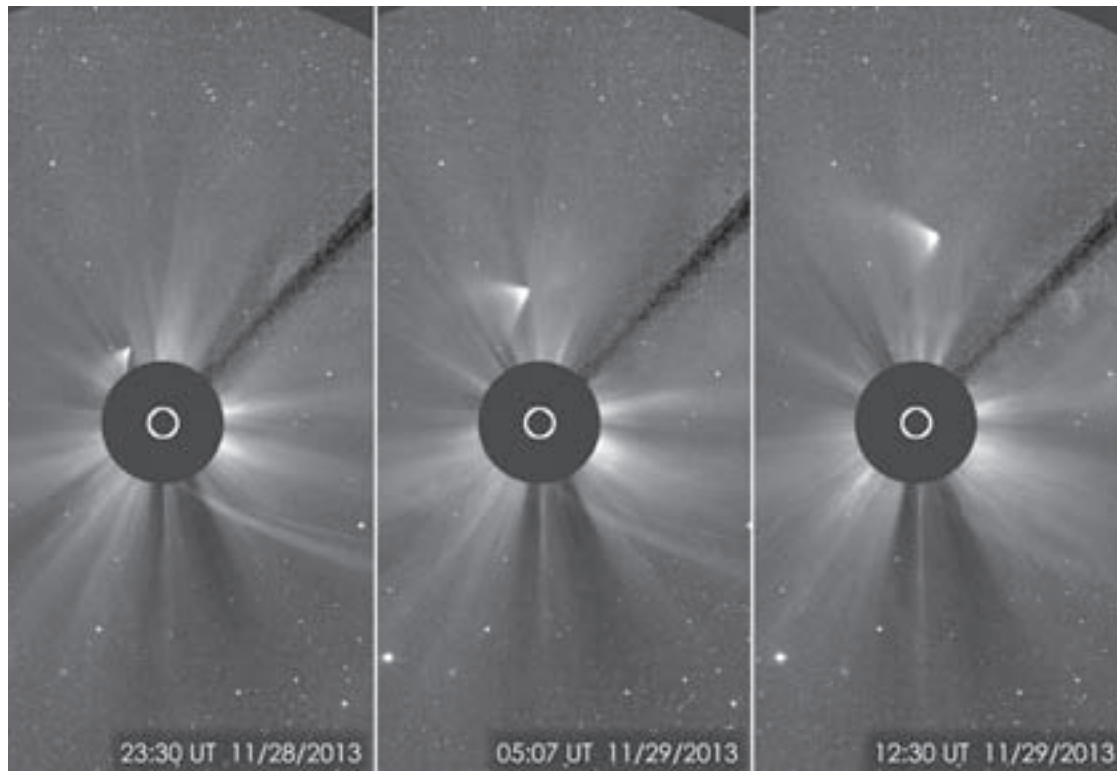
STOCKHOLM (AP) — A comet that gained an earthly following because of its bright tail visible from space was initially declared dead after grazing the sun. Now,

there is a sliver of hope that Comet ISON may have survived.

New images being analyzed Friday showed a streak of light moving away from the sun that some said could indicate it wasn't game over just yet.

"It certainly appears as if there is an object there that is emitting material," said Alan Fitzsimmons, an astronomer at Queens University in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Basically a dirty snowball from the fringes of the solar system, scientists had pronounced Comet ISON



In this combination of three images provided by NASA, comet ISON appears as a white smear heading up and away from the sun on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 28-29, 2013

Associated Press

(EYE'-sahn) dead when it came within 1 million miles

(1.6 million kilometers) of the sun Thursday.

Some sky gazers speculated early on that it might

become the comet of the century because of its brightness, although expectations dimmed over time. But it wouldn't be all bad news if the 4.5-billion-year-old space rock broke up into pieces, because some scientists say they might be able to study them and learn more about comets.

The European Space Agency, which had declared ISON's death on Twitter late Thursday, was backtracking early Friday, saying the comet "continues to surprise."

Comet ISON was first spotted by a Russian telescope in September last year, and became something of celestial flash in the pan this week for its vivid tail — visible by the naked eye — and compelling backstory of impending doom. □

Techies vs. NSA

Continued from Page 23

The Montreal-based programmer received glowing press for Cryptocat's ease of use, but he suffered embarrassment earlier this year when researchers discovered an error in the program's code, which may have exposed users' communications. Kobeissi used the experience to argue that shiny new privacy apps need to be aggressively vetted before users can trust them.

"You need to be vigilant," he says. "We're two years old and we're just starting to reach the kind of maturity I would want."

"Heml is also encountered difficulties and angered users when its creators said they wouldn't use open source — or publicly auditable — code. And Silent Circle abruptly dropped

its encrypted email service in August, expressing concern that it could not keep the service safe from government intrusion.

"What we found is the encryption services range in quality," says George Kurtz, CEO of Irvine, California-based CrowdStrike, a big data, security technology company.

"I feel safe using some built by people who know what they are doing, but others are Johnny-come-latelies who use a lot of buzzwords but may not be all that useful." Even so, private services report thousands of new users, and nonprofit, free encryption services say they have also seen sharp upticks in downloads.

And for many users, encryption really isn't enough to avoid the U.S. govern-

ment's prying eyes.

Paris-based Bouygues Telecom told its data storage provider Pogoplug in San Francisco that it needs the data center moved out of the U.S. to get out from under the provisions of U.S. law. So this month, Pogoplug CEO Daniel Putterman is keeping Bouygues as a client by shipping a multi-million dollar data center, from cabinets to cables, from California to France.

"They want French law to apply, not U.S. law," says Putterman, who is also arranging a similar move for an Israeli client.

Bouygues spokesman Alexandre Andre doesn't draw a direct connection with the Patriot Act, and says Bouygues' arrangement with Pogoplug is driven by concerns over performance and privacy. Andre says Bouygues wants the data stored in France, but it was up to Pogoplug to decide whether this would be done on Bouygues' own servers or Pogoplug's. "There is a general worry in France over data security, and storing data in France permits us to reassure our clients," Andre says.

The arrangement also helps improve the service's

performance, Andre says, another reason for the move.

For Pogoplug, business is booming — it's garnered close to 1 million paid subscribers in its first year — and Putterman says the company is anxious to accommodate concerned clients.

And this month, Pogoplug launched a \$49 software package called Safeplug that prevents third parties, from the NSA to Google, from learning about a user's location or browsing habits.

But many warn that encryption offers a false sense of security.

"The fundamental designers of cryptography are in an arms race right now, but there are a series of weaknesses and missing oversights that have nothing to do with encryption that leave people vulnerable," says Patrick Peterson, CEO of Silicon Valley-based email security firm Agari. And many that do work, bog down or freeze computers, forcing "a trade-off between security and convenience," he says.

In any case, most attacks don't happen because some cybercriminal used complicated methods to

gain entry into a network, he adds.

"Most attacks occur because someone made a mistake.

With phishing emails, it just takes one person to unwittingly open an attachment or click on a malicious link, and from there, cybercriminals are able to get a foothold," Peterson says.

In addition, experts agree that with enough time and money, any encryption can be broken.

And already the NSA has bypassed — or altogether cracked — much of the digital encryption that businesses and everyday Web surfers use, according to reports based on Snowden's disclosures. The reports describe how the NSA invested billions of dollars, starting in 2000, to make nearly everyone's secrets available for government consumption.

Meanwhile, the U.S. government's computing power continues to grow. This fall, the NSA plans to open a \$1.7 billion cyber-arsenal — a Utah data center filled with super-powered computers designed to store massive amounts of classified information, including data that awaits decryption. □

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Elvis items featured at Rock and Roll Hall of Fame

THOMAS J. SHEERAN

Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — Old-time Elvis Presley fans and lots of newer, younger ones flocked to a new exhibit at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum Friday to see his stylish ID bracelet, custom-made motorcycle, eye-catching rings and military mementos.

The exhibit opened in conjunction with Elvis Presley Enterprises and includes more than 40 artifacts loaned by his Graceland mansion in Memphis, Tennessee.

The items include a walnut-size 41-carat ruby and diamond ring, a 25.5-carat opal ring and a sapphire pinkie ring.

The rock hall inducted Presley in 1986 and calls him "the undisputed King of Rock and Roll."

The rock hall says he holds records for the most Top 40 hits with 104 and the most

Top 10 hits with 38.

"Elvis was the creator, he was the beginning," said fan Peter Webster, 72, of Portland, Maine, while visiting the rock hall during a family holiday gathering in Cleveland. "There were other people who sang rock 'n roll music before he did, but he brought rock 'n roll music onto the stage."

Visitors lined up to watch a video montage and check out Presley's 1975 custom made SuperTrike motorcycle and the white suit that he wore when he performed the song "If I Can Dream" in a television special.

There's also the script for a 1968 NBC special and a 1971 souvenir menu for Presley's shows in Lake Tahoe. Presley's Army service beginning in 1958 at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, gets the headline treatment, including his fatigue shirt, his induction orders and his

signed receipt for an M1 rifle.

His military service and smiling photo pointing to his sergeant's stripes may surprise people more familiar with the anti-draft sentiment years later during the Vietnam war.

"I think people respected him because he served in the Army," Webster said.

The Presley exhibit at the rock hall alongside Lake Erie is updated every two years with loaned items from Graceland.

"We're using it as a chance to introduce some really iconic artifacts and also to change up the exhibition space. It's more than just a refresh," said rock hall president and CEO Greg Harris. "We all know Elvis didn't invent rock 'n roll. He was the shot heard 'round the world for everybody to embrace it and be moved by it," Harris said.

Presley was born in Tupelo,



In this Nov. 25, 2013 photo, Andre Sepetavec installs a double-necked guitar in the Elvis exhibit at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland.

Associated Press

Mississippi, on Jan. 8, 1935, and grew up surrounded by gospel music.

He died of a heart attack at Graceland on Aug. 16,

1977. He was 42.

Elvis Presley Enterprises was created by the Elvis Presley Trust to manage its assets. □



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CASINO AND SHOPS

Aussie hotel proud of its Justin Bieber graffiti

SYDNEY (AP) — An Australian hotel is declaring itself a graffiti Belieber, despite being at odds with the city government.

QT Hotel in the Gold Coast said it gave Justin Bieber permission to spray graffiti on its wall. The Canadian singer and others posted images online showing cartoon faces in fluorescent paint on an outdoor wall at the hotel in Queensland state.

After hearing criticism, the hotel changed its Facebook page cover art Thursday to show Bieber, his graffiti and the declaration: "He asked, and we said YES."

Gold Coast mayor Tom Tate says the singer risked undermining the city's efforts to fight graffiti. "The last thing we want is to have graffiti glorified and more young people thinking it's a cool thing to do," he said.



In this Nov. 28, 2013 photo, Graffiti painted by Canadian pop singer Justin Bieber is displayed on a wall of the QT hotel in the Gold Coast, Australia. QT Hotel in the Gold Coast said it gave Justin Bieber permission to spray graffiti on its wall.

Associated Press

In a letter to the hotel, Tate asserted the city can insist on removal of graffiti in private spaces if it's visible

from public spaces. But in further posts on its Facebook page, QT Hotel defended Bieber as an

excellent hotel guest and said it wanted to promote graffiti as an art form. It invited artists to share ex-

amples of their work to be judged, with select artists being offered a hotel wall they could spray-paint themselves.

"It was a coup for the hotel to have Justin want to paint a piece of art in appreciation of his stay," the hotel said in an emailed statement on Friday. "This piece of art is now available to be viewed by fans of the artist and we believe that it is a wonderful addition to the colorful Gold Coast arts scene."

Bieber performed in Brisbane on Wednesday and has more concerts in Sydney on Friday and Saturday. The 19-year-old pop star arrived in Australia after a troubled Latin American tour.

He apologized to Argentinians after images appeared to show him dragging that country's flag across the stage with his feet. □

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Where Is The Love?



NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF
© 2013 New York Times

When I've written recently about food stamp recipients, the uninsured and prison inmates, I've had plenty of push-back from readers.

A reader named Keith reflected a coruscating chorus when he protested: "If kids are going hungry, it is because of the parents not upholding their responsibilities." A reader in Washington bluntly suggested taking children from parents and putting them into orphanages.

Jim asked: "Why should I have to subsidize someone else's child? How about personal responsibility? If you procreate, you provide." After a recent column about an uninsured man who had delayed seeing a doctor about a condition that turned out to be colon cancer, many readers noted that he was a lifelong smoker and said he had it coming. "What kind of a lame brain doofus is this guy?" one reader asked. "And like it's our fault that he couldn't afford to have himself checked out?" Such scorn seems widespread, based on the comments I get on my blog and Facebook page - as well as on polling and on government policy. At root, these attitudes reflect a profound lack of empathy.

A Princeton University psychology professor, Susan Fiske, has found that when research subjects hooked up to neuro-imaging machines look at photos of the poor and homeless, their brains often react as if they were seeing things, not people. Her analysis suggests that Americans sometimes react to poverty not with sympathy but with revulsion. So, on Thanksgiving, maybe we need a conversation about empathy for fellow humans in distress. Let's acknowledge one point made by these modern social Darwinists: It's true that some people in poverty do suffer in part because of irresponsible behavior, from abuse of narcotics to criminality to laziness at school or jobs. But remember also that many of today's poor are small children who have done nothing wrong. Some 45 percent of food stamp recipients are children, for example. Do we really think that kids should go hungry if they have criminal parents? Should a little boy not get a curved spine treated properly because his dad is a dead-beat? Should a girl not be able to go to preschool because her

mom is an alcoholic?

Successful people tend to see in themselves a simple narrative: You study hard, work long hours, obey the law and create your own good fortune. Well, yes. That often works fine in middle-class families.

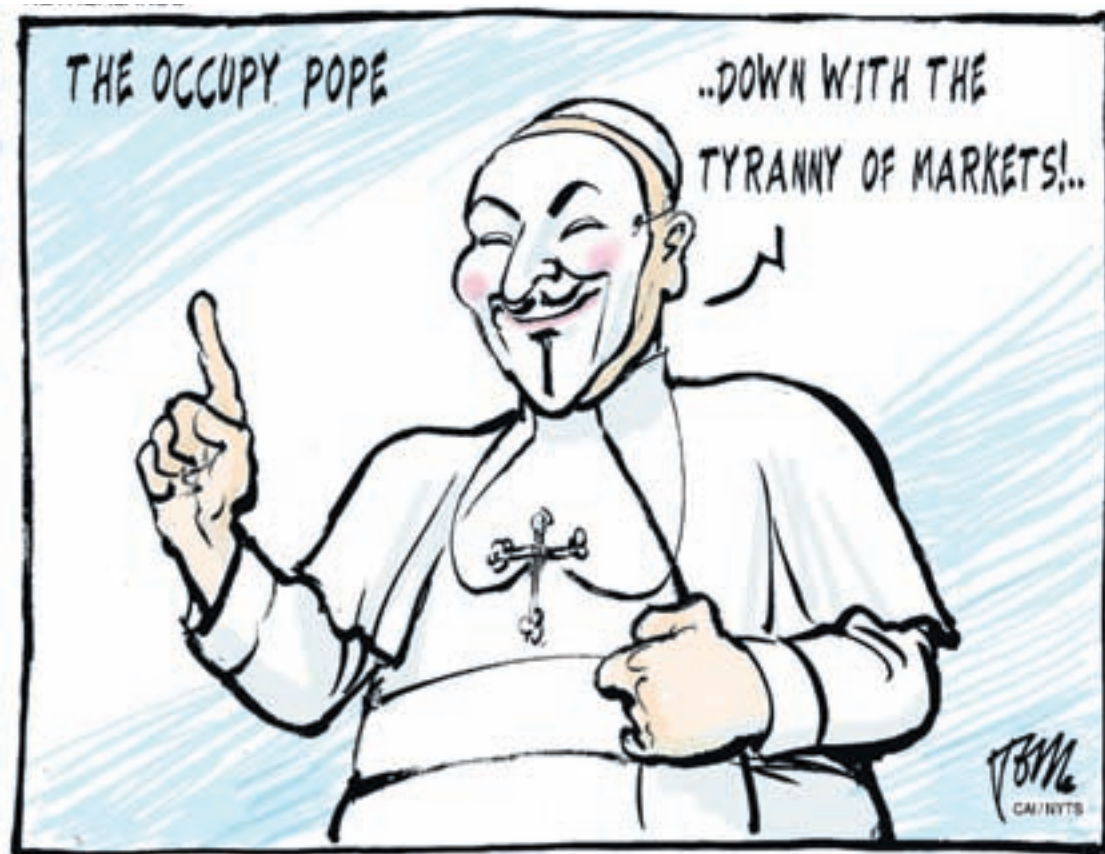
But if you're conceived by a teenage mom who drinks during pregnancy so that you're born with fetal alcohol effects, the odds are overwhelmingly stacked against you from before birth. You'll perhaps never get traction. Likewise, if you're born in a high-poverty neighborhood to a stressed-out single mom who doesn't read to you and slaps you more than hugs you, you'll face a huge handicap. One University of Minnesota study found that the kind of parenting a child receives in the first 3.5 years is a better predictor of high school graduation than IQ. All this helps explain why one of the strongest determinants of ending up poor is being born poor. As Warren Buffett puts it, our life outcomes often depend on the "ovarian lottery." Sure, some people transcend their circumstances, but it's callous for those born on second or third base to denounce the poor for failing to hit home runs.

John Rawls, the brilliant 20th-century philosopher, argued for a society that seems fair if we consider it from behind a "veil of ignorance" - meaning we don't know whether we'll be born to an investment banker or a teenage mom, in a leafy suburb or a gang-ridden inner city, healthy or disabled, smart or struggling, privileged or disadvantaged. That's a shrewd analytical tool - and who among us would argue for food stamp cuts if we thought we might be among the hungry children?

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, let's remember that the difference between being surrounded by a loving family or being homeless on the street is determined not just by our own level of virtue or self-discipline, but also by an inextricable mix of luck, biography, brain chemistry and genetics.

For those who are well-off, it may be easier to castigate the irresponsibility of the poor than to recognize that success in life is a reflection not only of enterprise and willpower, but also of random chance and early upbringing. Low-income Americans, who actually encounter the needy in daily life, understand this complexity and respond with empathy. Researchers say that's why the poorest 20 percent of Americans donate more to charity, as a fraction of their incomes, than the richest 20 percent. Meet those who need help, especially children, and you become less judgmental and more compassionate.

And compassion isn't a sign of weakness, but a mark of civilization. Contact Kristof at Facebook.com/Kristof, Twitter.com/NickKristof or by mail at The New York Times, 620 Eighth Ave., New York, NY 10018. □



The North Carolina Five



JOE NOCERA
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The Uniform Athlete Agents Act was a bill drafted 13 years ago at the urging of the NCAA. The drafters were members of something called the Uniform Law Commission, whose job it is to propose model legislation that the states can then adopt if they so choose. Today, 41 states have the law, or some variant of it, on their books. The law essentially criminalizes most contact between sports agents and college athletes - something that heretofore had merely been a violation of NCAA rules. Agents who give athletes money are now violating the law. "Runners" who act as go-betweens for agents are violating the law. Agents who don't announce to the university that they want to talk to an enrolled athlete are violating the law. It is a measure of how good a job the NCAA has done in brainwashing the country that the simple act of handing money to - or giving advice to - a college student is now against the law in most of the country when the recipient happens to play a sport.

(And you wonder why so many college football and men's basketball players come out of school so ill-equipped for life? According to Sports Illustrated,

some 78 percent of professional football players are either bankrupt or in serious financial trouble within two years of their retirement. Maybe if the NCAA encouraged players to get agents while they were still in school, instead of criminalizing such contact, athletes would be a little better prepared for what comes afterward. Instead, the NCAA views this activity as the work of "unscrupulous agents" who are "victimizing" athletes. But I digress.)

Still, on anyone's list of criminal activities, slipping a few bucks to the middle linebacker has to rank pretty low. Which perhaps explains why, so far as I can tell, no one had ever been indicted before for violating the law. Until last month, that is. That's when Jim Woodall, the top prosecutor in Orange County, N.C., egged on by the North Carolina Secretary of State's Office, which had conducted a lengthy investigation, indicted five people for funneling "illegal" benefits to three former University of North Carolina football players.

At the center of this "conspiracy" is a small-time agent named Terry Watson, who, in 2010, is alleged to have given the three athletes in question a total of around \$24,000. What he hoped for was that the players would use him as their agent when they went pro. (They didn't.) The charge is "athlete agent inducement."

The other four were indicted on charges of being the supposed go-betweens. It is one of those alleged go-betweens I want to briefly focus on. It used to be that the NCAA could only wreck the lives of athletes. Now, it appears, thanks to the Uniform Athlete Agents Act, nonathletes can also have their lives wrecked by the NCAA.

Between 2007 and 2009, Jennifer Wiley Thompson was an academic adviser for North Caro-

lina athletes. Her original crime, in the eyes of the NCAA, was giving athletes a little too much help. She wasn't writing papers for them, but she was helping them make them better. When the football team became mired in a scandal in 2010, the help she had given became public knowledge. She, in turn, became a focal point in the news media. She not only lost her position as an academic adviser, but she lost her day job teaching grade school kids.

She has since lost a second job - and now faces the prospect of jail time for allegedly passing money to a player for plane tickets. "They are doing this because she helped people with their homework?" said Joseph Cheshire, her lawyer. "It is ridiculous. We don't see where she broke the law. We're going to war on this." It is a war well worth waging. There is virtually no precedent to look to, so this case is likely to determine whether this law has any teeth. If the Orange County district attorney succeeds in his effort to prosecute the North Carolina five, it will mean that other prosecutors, in other jurisdictions, will follow suit. Going after someone who has tainted dear old State U. will be irresistible.

If, on the other hand, the cases go to trial and they are found not guilty, the law will be rendered meaningless, even if it remains on the books.

Meanwhile, in late October, a committee of the Uniform Law Commission met in Chicago to discuss revisions to - what else? - the Uniform Athlete Agents Act. According to Richard T. Cassidy, who writes the blog "On Lawyering," the plan is to "expand the scope of the law and improve its effectiveness." One proposal is to have the law cover high school and even elementary school athletes.

Thus does the long arm of the NCAA get that much longer. □

Candyland: A Gingerbread Colossus Rises In Queens

NEW YORK - To call it a village would seem to diminish its Lilliputian sprawl, seeing as how it encompasses 164 structures and weighs in at slightly more than 1.5 tons, including a stuporous 2,240 pounds of icing. Clearly this is no ordinary gingerbread village. It is, in fact, the world's largest such creation, built piece by piece by Jon Lovitch in a closet-size kitchen in his South Bronx apartment - a monument to the idea of working big on a tiny scale. The exhibit, "Gingerbread Lane," is on display at the New York Hall of Science in Queens. Guinness World Records last week declared it the world's largest entirely edible gingerbread exhibit. If the Guinness people saw how he made it, they might have declared it the

world's craziest project. Lovitch, a 37-year-old chef, did all of the cooking and culinary construction work at home before assembling the village at the Hall of Science. Besides the icing, the village also includes 400 pounds of candy and 500 pounds of gingerbread dough. All of the pieces - from the brownstones, to the 2-foot-high nutcrackers made of many layers of royal icing - were made by Lovitch, usually late at night after returning from work as the executive sous chef at the New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge. Lovitch went about the project the way Willy Wonka might have, if the fictional candymaker were trying to make ends meet in high-rent New York City. He began the project in early February, working

mostly after midnight while his wife slept. The exhibit opened last weekend, but it is still a work in progress for Lovitch, who on Sunday was mixing his gingerbread ingredients - flour, brown sugar, Crisco and corn syrup - in a modest mixing bowl and heating up his shortening in a tiny sauce pan. As usual, he used his modest stovetop range and a conventional convection oven that handles one baking pan at a time. Food colorings and spices like ginger, cinnamon and nutmeg, were kept on a set of shelves he had installed. Lovitch whipped up some white icing - powdered sugar, egg whites and cream of tartar - and added it to several gallons he kept in a big plastic bucket. He also made a green batch to touch up the

trees, with their branches of piped green icing. "It's kind of like living in Santa's workshop," said his mother, Vickie Lovitch, who was visiting from their native Kansas City, Mo., and staying in the apartment. She added that her son's obsession with Christmas extravagance dates to boyhood, when he would string up 10,000 Christmas lights outside the house. As his chef jobs took him to Washington, D.C., and then to Pittsburgh, he made bigger and bigger holiday villages each year. In January, he moved to New York to get better exposure for the creations, with a goal of making a living solely off making, and teaching, gingerbread construction. "Being a chef, people may remember my meals for a day or two, but with the gingerbread, I can get thou-

sands of people at a time checking out my work," he said. "I've gotten emails a year later, thanking me for it." Lovitch said he paid for his villages himself - shelling out "a few grand" this year. At the Hall of Science last week, Lovitch carefully expanded the house, installing additional trees and paving more areas with M&Ms. He kicked off his chef clogs and sat cross-legged while squeezing icing onto the display, spreading it with a butter knife and applying more candy decorations. The effect was not lost on those for whom it was intended. "It's Candyland," one child yelled, peering at the village. "Think of the cavities you'd get, eating all that," marveled another. □



John Lovitch adds final touches to his Gingerbread Lane exhibit, which he cooked and constructed in his small apartment before assembling at the New York Hall of Science, in New York, Nov. 24, 2013. The creation, which the Guinness Book of World Records declared the world's largest entirely edible gingerbread exhibit, weighs in at slightly more than 1.5 tons.

(Damon Winter/ The New York Times)